THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JULY 22, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

July 21, 2024

My Fellow Americans,

Over the past three and a half years, we have made great progress as a Nation.

Today, America has the strongest economy in the world. We've made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We've provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today.

I know none of this could have been done without you, the American people. Together, we overcame a once in a century pandemic and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We've protected and preserved our Democracy. And we've revitalized and strengthened our alliances around the world.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term.

I will speak to the Nation later this week in more detail about my decision.

For now, let me express my deepest gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to see me reelected. I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for being an extraordinary partner in all this work. And let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the American people for the faith and trust you have placed in me.

I believe today what I always have: that there is nothing America can't do – when we do it together. We just have to remember we are the United States of America.

BIDEN QUITS U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Endorses Kamala Harris as the new nominee; first prez to abandon campaign for re-election over concerns of mental acuity

AGENCIES @Washington

AFTER ignoring calls to quit the presidential race for weeks, US President Joe Biden on Sunday dropped out of the presidential election and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's new nominee. The dramatic announcement came less than a month before the Democratic National Convention, set to start on August 19.

The 81-year-old was under tremendous pressure from Democrats following a disastrous debate performance. Biden's decision to leave the race, though not unexpected, would force Republican candidate Donald Trump to change his strategy.

"While it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Biden said in a letter on X while recovering from Covid at his beach house in Delaware.

Biden said he would "speak to the nation later this week in more detail about my decision."

He later added that he was backing Harris — who is the first female, Black and South Asian vice president in US history, and will now be aiming to become its first female commander-in-chief. "Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year," Biden said on X. "Democrats - it's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this."

Biden is the first president in US history to pull out so late in an election race, and the first to bow out because of concerns over his mental acuity and health.

Trump quickly reacted, saying Biden had not been "fit to run" or "fit to serve" as president.

House Speaker Mike Johnson also called for Biden's resignation. "If Biden is not fit to run for president, he is not fit to serve as president. He must resign immediately," he said.

Biden spent more than three weeks resisting calls to step down following the shock of the June 27 debate, at one point insisting that only the "Lord Almighty" could convince him to back out.

To show he was up to the job, he gave a number of interviews, but made further gaffes. P11

WHAT NEXT

- With Biden stepping aside, Democrats will technically begin an open convention next month
- Biden has endorsed Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee. She must work to win support of 4,000 delegates and 700 super delegates
- Given Harris' strong support among Black women, analysts say it would be risky for Democrats to pass her over for a white nominee
- Others that could be considered are: Governors Gavin Newsom, Gretchen Whitmer and Josh Shapiro

Budget session to be stormy as Oppn, allies raise heat

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@New Delhi

DROPPING hints that the Budget session of Parliament starting Monday is going to be stormy, the all-party meeting on Sunday saw Opposition parties demanding discussion on a number of contentious issues, including the NEET fiasco, the UP government's order to eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route, among others. Misuse of central agencies, Centre-state relations, and Lok Sabha deputy speaker post were among the other issues the Opposition parties wanted discussion on.

But what will put the BJP-led government in a tricky situation is the demand by the Opposition as well as some BJP allies JD(U) and LJP for special status for states. The JD(U), the BJD and the YSR Congress Party demanded the status for Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, respectively

As many as 55 leaders from 44 parties attended the meeting. In a bid to signal its political outreach, the government had invited a number of smaller parties, including some having only one MP. While most opposition parties participated in the meeting, the Trinamool Congress chose to skip it.

At the meeting, which lasted for over three hours, the Congress batted for the post of deputy speaker in the Lok Sabha for Opposition while the AAP raised serious concerns against the alleged misuse of central agencies such as ED and CBI.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, who chaired the meet, appealed to all parties for the smooth conduct of Parliament. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government is willing to discuss all issues in accordance with the rules. Most Opposition parties criticised the Uttar Pradesh government's fiat that eateries and shops along the Kanwar Yatra route must display owners' names, terming it 'communal and divisive'.

The Budget session will have 19 sittings till August 12 when the government is expected to present six bills, including the one to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act.

NEET, Kanwar yatra pleas in SC today

The SC will on Monday hear a batch of petitions related to the NEET-UG 2024. The apex court will also hear a petition against the Uttar Pradesh government's order that eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route must display the names of their owners

Economic Survey to be presented today

The Economic Survey 2023-24 will be presented in the Lok Sabha at 1 pm and in the Rajya Sabha at 2 pm on Monday. The survey gives details about the economic progress the country made in the previous year. The Union Budget will be presented on Tuesday | P12

MAHA CAMPAIGN

In rare attack on Pawar, Amit Shah calls him 'ringleader of corruption'

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
@Mumbai

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched an unusually blistering attack on Opposition leader Sharad Pawar, calling him the 'sargana of corruption' (ring leader of corruption). Shah's attack drew an equally sharp response from the NCP (SP), which called the BJP, "a washing machine" that legitimises corruption.

Shah was speaking at the BJP's state convention in Pune, kick-starting the party's elections campaign for the upcoming assembly elections.

"They (Opposition) talk about corruption, but the biggest leader of corruption in Indian politics is Sharad Pawar and I have no confusion when I say this. Sharad Pawar institutionalised corruption in many governments of this country," Shah alleged. Shah also said whenever Sharad Pawar's government comes to power, Maratha reservations go out. "Therefore, if we want Maratha reservations, Sharad Pawar should not be voted to power," Shah added.

He said Rahul Gandhi has become arrogant after the Opposition's surprisingly strong performance in the Lok Sabha polls. "Once we win... assembly polls later this year, Rahul Gandhi's arrogance will be crushed," Shah said.

Responding to Shah's attack on Pawar, NCP (SP) spokesperson Clyde Crasto said, "They accuse political leaders of corruption, and then once those who they accuse join BJP, they are all given a clean chit."

CM meets residents at landslide site

Shirur: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited the landslide area at Shirur on Ankola-Kumta road in Uttara Kannada district on Sunday, spending more than an hour inspecting the damage and interacting with the locals. He directed the officials to provide relief to the needy | P5

We will not protect the guilty. We will initiate action against those responsible, once the rescue operations are completed

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Rescue personnel at the landslide site at Shirur village in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district on Sunday | DHEMANTH

Army team in Ankola to take up search ops

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@Shirur (Uttara Kannada)

A 44-member team of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment from Belagavi has been deputed to carry out the search and rescue operations at the landslide site at Shirur village in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district. They will look for missing persons, especially for Kasargod-based Arjun, amid the rubble. Arjun, a truck driver, was transporting timber from Jagalpet in Joida taluk when the area was hit by the landslide six days ago.

The Army personnel have been deployed after severe criticism by Kerala media over the slow-paced rescue operations at the site.

"The Army unit has arrived here. It was decided yesterday (Sunday). We have NDRF, SDRF and Army personnel working now. We hope there will be quicker results," said a senior district administration official. Uttara Kannada Deputy Commissioner Lakshmi Priya said there was a request from the Kerala government to expedite the rescue operations and the district administration decided to seek Army's assistance. "We feel the truck could be buried under the debris. The Army unit will be here for four days," she added.

Asked whether Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan himself called to expedite the process, she said, "The Kerala transport minister had called."

The Army unit will search the Gangavalli river where the truck is suspected to be stuck. They will be helped by NDRF, ASDRF and district police.

SP Narayan said the Army unit is quite experienced in rescue operations. "This team is not ordinary. It has members who worked in Himachal Pradesh in rescue operations." CONTINUED ON: P7

B'desh SC dials down govt job quota behind deadly unrest

AGENCIES @Dhaka

THE Bangladesh Supreme Court on Sunday pared back the contentious quotas for government jobs after days of clashes between students and security forces that have killed at least 155 people.

Protests erupted after a lower court last month ordered that a scheme, that reserved 56% of government jobs for select applicants, be brought back. It had been scrapped by the Sheikh Hasina government in 2018 amid protests by youngsters.

Critics accused the government of using the scheme to stack public jobs with loyalists to Hasina's ruling Awami League. The Supreme Court on Sunday decided that the lower court's order to reintroduce the scheme was "illegal". The court curtailed the number of reserved jobs from 56% to 7%, AFP reported.

It reserved 5% of all government jobs for the children "freedom fighters" who took part in the 1971 liberation war, down from 30%. One percent is reserved for tribal communities, and another one percent for people with disabilities.

The remaining 93% of positions would be decided on merit, the court ruled. This, however, has failed to mollify university student leaders, with students calling for a complete abolition of the "freedom fighter" category. "We won't call off our protests until the government issues an order reflecting our demands," Students Against Discrimination, a student group leading the protests has said.

Reports said soldiers were patrolling cities across Bangladesh on Sunday after riot police failed to restore order.

In an update on Sunday, the Ministry of External Affairs said that over 4,500 Indian students have returned from Bangladesh.

Soldiers and special forces stand guard at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on Sunday. The court was hearing pleas on government quota | AFP

Our doors open: Didi

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said she would keep the doors of her state open for people in distress from Bangladesh. "There is a UN Resolution to accommodate refugees in regions adjacent to those under turmoil," she said | P9

EXPRESS READ

3 killed in landslide on Kedarnath trek route

Rudraprayag: Three devotees died and eight others were injured in a landslide on the Kedarnath Dham trek route in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand on Sunday. The incident happened around 7.30 am on the Gaurikund-Kedarnath route when the devotees were hit with boulders and debris | P10

'Op All Out' in J&K: Addl troops to be deployed

Srinagar: The security agencies will soon launch 'Operation All Out' in Jammu to tackle militancy in the region, which has emerged as a new militant hotspot in the last few years. Over 3,500 security personnel would be deployed especially in border districts | P10

Mys to Siachen: Capt Supreetha breaks barriers

KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

IN a remarkable achievement, Captain Supreetha CT from Mysuru has become the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence to be operationally deployed at the formidable Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.

Born to Thirumalesh, a police sub-inspector, and Nirmala, a homemaker, Supreetha's journey from the serene Mysuru to the treacherous terrains of Siachen has emerged as a testament to her unwavering determination and pioneering spirit.

In 2021, Supreetha's military dreams took flight when she was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Army. Rigorous training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai prepared her for her role in the Army Air Defence unit. Her service saw her deployed in strategic locations, like Anantnag, Jabalpur and Leh. Her posting to Siachen Glacier came on July 18, said Thirumalesh, who hails from Chamarajanagar district.

Capt Supreetha CT (inset) crosses a gorge at Siachen Glacier

Thirumalesh, an SI at the Talakadu Police Station, expressed immense pride in his daughter's achievements. "Supreetha has always been determined and focused. Her journey to Siachen is a dream come true for her and an inspiration to many," he said.

Supreetha studied at Shastri Vidya Samsthe in Hunsur, St Mary's in HD Kote, St Joseph's in KR Nagar and Marimallappa's School in Mysuru. She pursued LLB at JSS Law College and also got her BBA.

During her studies, she earned the NCC Air Wing C Certificate, represented Karnataka at the All-India Vayu Sainik Camp, and marched in the prestigious Republic Day Parade in New Delhi in 2016.

Supreetha married Major Jerry Blaiz, son of Col (retd) Richard Blaize and Lt Col Vijayalakshmi, in 2024. The couple had made headlines as the first pair to participate together in this year's Republic Day parade.

IT staff worry over 14-hr workday, its consequences

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government is looking at amending the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishment Act 2024 in close consultation with industrialists and businesses.

But it is kicking up a storm among employees, especially in the IT and ITeS sector, as they are worried that work hours per day could be increased from the present 10 hours to 14 hours.

The Karnataka State IT/ITeS/BPO Employees Union (KITU) stated that under the new amendments, the government aims to extend the work hours and normalise a 70-hour work week.

Neeti Sharma, CEO, Teamlease, said if the government passes the amendment, it will have many consequences on not only employee health, but also the overall productivity of a company. CONTINUED ON: P3

PhonePe CEO apologises for job quota criticism

Bengaluru: PhonePe co-founder and CEO Sameer Nigam on Sunday tendered an unconditional apology after several people in the state began boycotting the digital payment app following his criticism of the proposed job reservation bill. P4

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 22.07.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Prathami 2.27 pm
Nakshatra: Shravana 12.46 am • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Passing showers. Overcast

Sunrise 06.03 am
Sunset 06.49 pm
Moonrise 07.55 pm
Moonset 06.42 am

B'LURU SUFFOCATES AS CLEAN AIR FUNDS LIE UNDER-UTILISED

Report names city worst in the country in utilisation of National Clean Air Prog grants

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

DESPITE demands and suggestions from stakeholders to improve the air quality in the state, a recently released report shows that Karnataka is one of the worst-performing states in the country when it comes to utilising funds for cleaner air.

Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and 15th Finance Commission funding during 2019-24, of the 23 states, Karnataka, Punjab, and New Delhi as well as a few others have used less than 40% of the funds. This was also the case for the IT city of Bengaluru which was named the worst city for underutilising the funds (NCAP) and the third worst under the Finance Commission grants, out of 25 cities in the country.

Under the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), NCAP – formed in 2019 -- is the first time-bound, target-oriented clean air programme with a performance-linked funding strategy for cities. "The centre has carried out this rapid review to understand the gaps and further needs for a more robust and expanded programme. This assessment finds that in the next phase, it is necessary to shift the focus towards the implementation of priority action in key sectors of pollution at a scale, and link the performance-linked funding with targeted milestones. The metrics of performance assessment should change accordingly. Only this can make a difference to air quality," stated the report released this week.

According to the study, Rs 62.42 crore was released for Karnataka out of which only Rs 19.59 crore (31.38%) was utilised between 2019-2024. Under the Finance Commission, Rs 535.1 crore was released, and only Rs 68.37 crore was used to support clean air programme, a mere 12.78% between the years 2020 and 2024.

Bengaluru has the highest amount of emission from transport exhaust at 64% followed by diesel generator (DG) sets at 11%, open source and municipal solid waste (MSW) burning 10% and road dust 7%. The 128-page report stated that during winters, the city has the highest emissions of 37% from transportation and DG and 24% from dust (road, soil, construction). The report highlighted that cities have spent very little funds on controlling combustion sources which leads to more pollution.

"Even though the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) indicators for transport encompass on-road emissions management, phasing out of old vehicles, electrification, public transport improvement, non-motorised transport and parking policy, these indicators are not well defined for implementation at the state level," noted the report and recommended immediate action at the state level.

Subways, skywalks on Hosur Rd: Go at your risk

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

WHILE subways and skywalks aim to allow pedestrians safely cross busy roads, the ones on the stretch from Adugodi on the Bengaluru-Hosur road are in such bad shape and in utter neglect that people hardly use them.

TNIE visited three subways — Garvebavipalya, Kudlu Gate and Singasandra and five skywalks along the Hosur to Bengaluru road stretch and found that they were plagued with multiple issues like awful stench, garbage, a lack of CCTV cameras, waterlogging, nonfunctional lifts, and escalators.

Prakash, an ATM security guard, said, "The subway near Kudlu Gate reeks of urine and garbage, and there is waterlogging at the entry and exit points. These are daily issues pedestrians have to face."

He pointed out that women feel unsafe walking through the subways at night as some people sleep there, drink alcohol, apart from poor lighting and a lack of CCTV cameras. He said instead of subways, skywalks are better for pedestrians as they are visible and safer for women. Prakash added that due to Metro construction works, a new skywalk was built, but the lifts were not opened yet.

The subway near Kudlu Gate reeks of urine and garbage, and there is waterlogging at the entry and exit points. These are daily issues pedestrians have to face. women feel unsafe walking through the subways at night — Prakash, ATM security guard

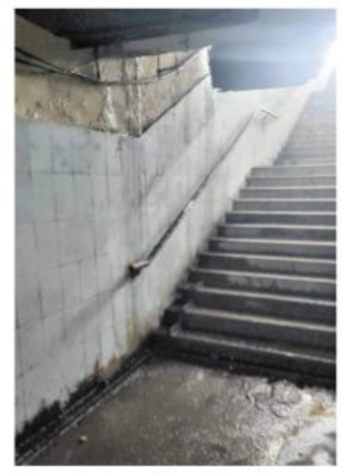
A 62-year-old Rajamma, a resident of Singasandra, said she has been using the Singasandra subway for several years, but authorities have failed to keep it clean. Pedestrians spit pan on the subway walls and steps, use the spots as an urinal spot. She can only use the subway by covering her nose.

Authorities have installed CCTV cameras inside the subway, but they have not been functioning for long. She also complained that she felt insecure due to the poor lighting.

Divya, an IT professional, who visited a mall on Hosur Road, said, "My brother had a leg fracture, and he was not able to walk. We found it tough to cross the road as the escalator was not working and there was no lift in the skywalk."

Retired lecturer Ramesh said he has seen four nonfunctional skywalk lifts on Hosur Road and senior citizens face difficulty climbing the steps, he said.

Bruhat Benagluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Zonal Joint Commissioner Ajith M told TNIE that they will look into issues and address them.



The pathetic condition of a subway on the Hosur to Bengaluru road | EXPRESS

Workers install an iron mesh around the stormwater drain near Jnanabharati Junction on Sunday | EXPRESS

15 DAYS AFTER DEATH OF BIKER, BBMP STARTS BARRICADING SWD

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

NEARLY a fortnight after a biker lost his life after falling into a stormwater drain that was right in the middle of the road, a stone's throw away from the entrance of Bangalore University, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken up the work to barricade the drain with reinforced iron wire mesh.

Hemant Kumar, a delivery agent, fell into the SWD near the Jnanabharathi Junction on the night of July 5 after crashing his two-wheeler into the road medium due to poor visibility as it was raining. His body was fished out after a 40-hour search operation.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath, who termed the death of the youth as unfortunate, said the SWD retaining wall was built in such a way that no could easily fall into it, but accepted that the height of the wall could have been reduced after the roads were laid.

Work to cover the drain with reinforced mesh and iron rods was taken up on Sunday. The mesh completely covered any access to the drain. Workers said the work will be completed in a day or two if it didn't rain.

Prashanth, an auto-driver who uses the road regularly, said the BBMP woke up only after a youth fell into the drain and lost his life. "At least now the officials have taken up the work. There are many such places in the city where people can easily fall into drains as retaining wall height is too low," he said.

Mantri Serenity flats to lose power today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a bid to save their flats from being plunged into darkness from Monday morning, 106 apartment owners of 'Mantri Serenity' apartments on Doddakallasandra Road on Sunday lodged a complaint at Subramanyapura police station, against Vista Castle Private Limited, a unit of the Mantri Group. This follows disconnection of their temporary power supply by Bescom on Saturday afternoon for four hours, and restoring it after giving them an ultimatum that it would be disconnected on Monday.

The apartment block of 27 storeys has 1,500 families living in 17 blocks, struggling for nearly two years now due to temporary power supply.

R Ramanujam, speaking on behalf of the owners, said, "All the affected flat owners and two members of the association signed the complaint today. At the time the owners moved into the flats nearly two years ago, we were promised permanent power supply (Low Tension domestic power) but we have only got temporary power supply."

The developer pays the power bills but Bescom has repeatedly issued them notices, asking them to opt for permanent power connection which they have ignored. "On Saturday, 17 blocks were plunged into darkness. Four blocks did not have any problem. Bescom disconnected power at 2pm on July 19 and restored it by 6.30pm. "We were given a warning that power would be disconnected within 60 hours again. Hence, we are forced to take the drastic step," he said.

An agency outsourced by Vista, Propcare Real Estate Management Private Limited, has been paying power bills regularly to Bescom, and pending bills are not an issue, say owners.

Elaborating on the disadvantages of temporary power, Ramanujam said, "It is quite erratic. The lift functions on and off. There are times when senior citizens have been stuck inside the lifts for 30 minutes or more. We are living in constant fear all the time."

Despite repeatedly trying to reach the owners of Mantri and their representatives through calls and messages, there was no response.

The flat owners also gheraoed the marketing office of Mantri Serenity apartments inside their premises and forced it to close on Sunday evening. The office was still selling the flats to public daily.

Apartment owners picket the marketing office of Mantri Serenity on Doddakallasandra Road, forcing it to close on Sunday | EXPRESS

With kitchen garden, RWH, govt school gets sustainable makeover

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

WITH the aim to transform traditional educational infrastructure by incorporating innovative design and enhanced learning tools, volunteers from a global innovator service organisation and Akshaya Patra Foundation gave a new lease of life to a government school in Lakshmipura in Bengaluru Rural. The renovated school will be inaugurated on Monday.

Serving over 240 students -- 131 boys and 110 girls -- the school now not only features a modern library and computer lab, but also a kitchen garden to teach students about organic farming, healthy eating and sustainable living practices.

The government school in Lakshmipura will be inaugurated on Monday | EXPRESS

To enhance the educational experience for students, the features of the school are designed to maximise energy efficiency and sustainability to create a learning environment that minimises environmental impact and potentially reduces operational costs.

In addition, to familiarise students and keep them updated with growing technology, the computer lab to enable students access modern educational technologies and digital resources, has been set up as part of the project.

To practically demonstrate to students about sustainable water management practices, the school also adopted a rainwater harvesting system that will serve as an educational tool for them to understand the importance of conservation and resource management.

Moreover, the kitchen garden aims to introduce students to organic farming practices by growing their own produce. This will enable students to gain practical knowledge about healthy eating, the benefits of organic food, and the hands-on learning experience will not only promote better dietary habits, but also will instill a sense of responsibility towards the environment from a young age.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

22ND July : Monday's child is special. I looked in one of my old astrology books and I read that people born under the Moon - which rules Monday - are supposed to have large, round, glowing faces, and bid, wide eyes, just like the Full Moon. That should make them easy to spot!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Not everything is as it should be! Could it be that sharp words at home will result from differing opinions as to your prospects at work? Or perhaps it's another ambition which is coming between you? All your questions will be answered in good time!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
One of your great unsung qualities is your genero-sity. You are not the person to hang on to your money while close friends and loved ones go short: now is the time to part with some of your hard-won cash. It's also, by the way, quite the perfect moment for a trip back to your childhood.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
If you are tiring of an emotional conflict, surely the message is that it is time to give in to your better nature and make amends for past hurts and insults. Be sure that there is no going back to former mistakes and problems unless, that is, you are determined to resolve them.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Venus is bound to bring out the more delicate side of your nature, perhaps making it more difficult than usual to deal with the ups and downs of fate and fortune. Where you score is on your own kindness and goodwill, and your willing-ness to release somebody else from a promise.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Fiery Mars offers you just the tonic you need. The important consideration now is that it's not too late to take a decision that you put off days, or even weeks, ago. Work hard to catch up, even though you may feel that you're not getting a suitable financial pay-back.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Because Mars is now occupying a rather discreet sector of your horoscope, you may be unwilling to act in the full glare of public attention. Yet this is an ambitious time for you, one in which you may have to overcome certain reservations. In particular, you need to look again at your dogged devotion to duty, even when other people have backed out.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Your desire for peace and stability tends to extend beyond your immediate circle to encompass people you scarcely know. So, on days like today, when everyone is a little jumpy and excitable, you may feel personally responsible for maintain-ing a cordial environment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
A financial crisis may blow up but, as the dust settles, you see just how little there was to worry about. You are still receiving a fair amount of monetary protection from Venus, the traditional planet of prosperity. But basically it's reminding you that money is not always as important as it seems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You'll be turning the corner in a number of activities which closely involve other people. You might not say that this is the beginning of the end, but at least it's the end of the beginning. But, then, every astrological ending is accompanied by a new beginning!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Restless conditions are bound to affect every area of your life, and you're not in an ideal position to withstand disturbances to your routine. Make the most of every positive opportunity and try to see the present time as an excellent opportunity to deal with long-standing irritations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Today's lunar aspects should bring you to the close of a phase which has been over-concerned with work and routine chores, perhaps to the detriment of a number of seductive social developments. In love, may I offer you one piece of advice? While aiming for the best, don't be too pushy.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Your mood will change rapidly from being relatively outgoing and sociable, to being rather quiet and moody. People who you had been prepared to take at face value may now arouse a degree of suspicion. You might also now be considering the fruits of a romantic adventure.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

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		6	8	9	4			
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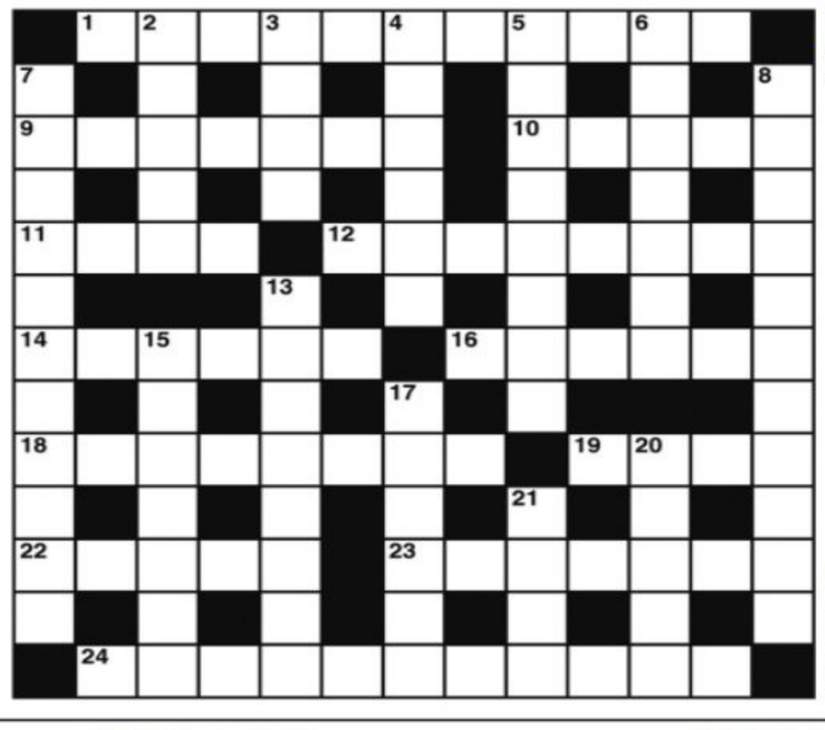
						2		3
	2	3	9	4	6	1	8	
6		8						
8				5		7	9	
			2	3	9	4		
	9			6			3	

2	1	9	3	5	7	6	4	8
6	3	4	8	1	2	9	5	7
5	7	8	6	9	4	1	2	3
4	6	1	2	8	9	3	7	5
7	2	3	5	4	1	8	6	9
8	9	5	7	6	3	4	1	2
1	4	2	9	3	5	7	8	6
9	5	6	1	7	8	2	3	4
3	8	7	4	2	6	5	9	1

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 A rule which is flexible (4,7)
9 We get involved with hairy bats (7)
10 Liberal politician gets in the beer (5)
11 Charge for a plant (4)
12 Cassette broken may set a precedent (4,4)
14 Beetle could be sailor's car (6)
16 In this one endures some restraint (6)
18 Absolutely certain it's a photographic term (8)
19 Kept perfectly cool (4)
22 Given material backing? (5)
23 Certainly bound to change (2,5)
24 Scottish family needs it made secret (11)

DOWN

2 In the bay wrecked ship sunk deep (5)
3 Leave without a thing (4)
4 One follows one team (6)
5 Renowned solicitor to open proceedings (5,3)
6 One way to recover some silver? (7)
7 It doesn't take long to provide a deficiency (5,6)
8 Free time for a convict (7,4)
13 A mammoth beast disposed to stand and moo (8)
15 Store army leader learns about (7)
17 A place to meet on the way (6)
20 Agitate a liquid container (5)
21 I'd turn in at the entrance (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Inside, 4 Spaniard, 9 Deemed, 10 Inkstand, 12 Ream, 13 Yeats, 14 Nine, 17 Childishness, 20 Training ship, 23 Rues, 24 Bairn, 25 Eric, 28 Bulletin, 29 Pagoda, 30 Dominant, 31 Myrtle.

Down: 1 Indirect, 2 Scenario, 3 Deer, 5 Penitentiary, 6 Nest, 7 Adagio, 8 Dodoes, 11 Perspiration, 15 Adorn, 16 Usage, 18 Share-out, 19 Space age, 21 Probed, 22 Bedlam, 26 Rein, 27 Lady.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

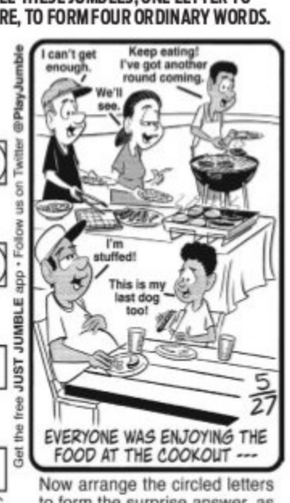
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

APTNL

HSESC

LOWOLH

RUUTEF



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ○○ THE ○○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BERRY PANIC DRIVEL COMMON
Answer: After the release of Elvis' "Jailhouse Rock", fans were talking about his — CRIMINAL RECORD

A 26-year-old man died, while his friend was injured, after his two-wheeler skidded near the BGS Flyover on Mysuru Road on Sunday morning. The Chickpet traffic police have registered a case. The deceased has been identified as Vignesh, who worked in a private firm. The injured has been identified as Shree Nidhi (25)

100 more allottees of Arkavathy Layout to get alternative sites

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE controversial Arkavathy Layout issue that had bogged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for years is inching towards a resolution with many allottees coming forward to accept the solution in sight --alternative sites at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL). A fresh batch of nearly 100 allottees was at the BDA office on Friday to convey their willingness with some of them getting a new site 18 years after the initial allotment.

Arkavathy Layout was planned with 8,813 sites in 2003-2004 on 2,750 acres of land in 16 villages in Bengaluru East and Yelahanka. But a series of denotification orders cancelled 3,720 of them. Those who lost their sites have been waging a long battle to get alternative sites either going to courts or by holding repeated protests over the last five years. The allottees initially refused to accept sites at NPKL, though BDA had proposed this many years ago.

According to the BDA website, 809 allottees have been allotted alternative sites so far. While 249 of them got the alternative site within Arkavathy Layout itself, 560 have got them at NPKL. Hundreds of sites are still under litigation. A top official told *TNIE*, "We are ready with the next batch of nearly 100 site owners for allotment. It has been approved by top officials. The allottees will get them through randomisation this week."

Asked how the allottees who were insisting on alternative allotment only in Arkavathy Layout finally accepted the sites in a different layout, another top BDA official said, "Allottees realised that NPKL was being developed rapidly. Its value has also shot up due to the increased guidance value and Metro connectivity too. It would take time for Arkavathy Layout to get all amenities. Hence, many feel NPKL is a better option now."

Arkavathy Layout site allottees, who lost them, are now readily accepting alternative sites in Kempegowda Layout (above) | EXPRESS

Break-up of allotment

The alternative allotment has been done in four batches so far - 4th August 2021 - at Arkavathy - 85 sites of 30x40 sqft dimension, 140 sites (20x30 sqft) and 24 sites (60x40 sqft) as well as 58 sites (30x40 sqft) at NPKL.

These alternatives sites have all been allotted at NPKL: March 16, 2023 - 232 sites (20x30 sqft); 67 (30x40 sqft), 34 sites (40x60 sqft); August 18 - 61 sites (20x30 sqft) and 10 sites (50x80 sqft). The last allotment was on September 25, 2023 – 53 sites (30x40 sq ft), while the next batch is getting them this week.

Among the relieved allottees who will be given a site this week is Krishnamoorthy, who was given a 30x40 sq ft site in Arkavathy in 2006. "It has been 18 years now since my first allotment and then subsequent cancellation. I am finally relieved that I will be given a BDA site," he told *TNIE*. Chandrashekhar, allotted a site in 2007, said, "I am really happy to be promised another site finally. The exact site number will be known next week."

Man cheated in the name of well-paying job in Saudi

RAKHSITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

NINTH grade dropout, 26-year-old Mohammed Ashfaq from Ramanagar, went to Riyadh last year with the promise of better work that would enable him to financially support his family and get his sister married. Unaware of the fake job racket, he became a victim and had a horrendous time for almost nine months in a foreign territory. The Karnataka Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Forum and Indian General Consulate at Jeddah came to his rescue and helped him return to India on July 14 on an Out Pass.

Before going to Riyadh, Ashfaq met a fake job company owner, Mohammed Peer, in Shivaji Nagar in September last year. Peer promised him a gig job at Amazon with a salary of 1,400 Saudi Riyals (approx Rs 31,000). To secure the job, Ashfaq gave him Rs 1 lakh.

Ashfaq told *TNIE* that there is a big racket of fake job offers, where workers are treated like slaves and paid very low salaries. "I was not given proper employment, accommodation, or food by the company. After transferring Rs 1 lakh to Peer, I was sent to Mumbai, where I stayed in a lodge for 15 days. I travelled with 15 others from different parts of the country. After reaching Riyadh, I worked for two months as a cleaner in a company, receiving two months' salary. When I contacted Peer, he promised me a promotion after two months. However, they stopped paying me my salary," Ashfaq said.

Mohammed Ashfaq | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

As Ashfaq's family questioned his situation, Peer told them that Ashfaq was not working properly and was therefore removed from the job. A few days later, Ashfaq's resident permit (Iqama) with the company expired, and his Indian passport was confiscated. He searched for a job in four other places but didn't get any employment because he did not have a valid Iqama. He survived for two or three days by just drinking water and eventually reached Jeddah. While roaming near a mosque for food, he met members of the Karnataka NRI Forum and begged them for help to return to India. With the help of the Indian Consulate General and the Karnataka NRI Forum, he returned to India. Ashfaq said he spent nine months in Saudi Arabia.

Ashfaq's mother Riya said they had filed a complaint at the Ashoknagar police station, but didn't get any help. She urged authorities to take action against the fraudsters. Riya, who raised two sons and a daughter after her husband's death, had taken a loan to pay the agent and spent around Rs 3 lakh in total. Ashfaq said he was searching for a job. As he was not well-qualified, he decided to go to Riyadh, work hard, take care of his family, and arrange his younger sister's marriage. But nothing worked for him.

Vice-President of the NRI Forum, Aarthi Krishna, told TNIE that due to limited employment opportunities and low salaries in India, people go to Gulf countries and other places for jobs.

'Bill expected to be tabled in ongoing session'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"WE need to find a balance between working hard and working smart. Working 14 hours will not guarantee higher productivity, but will lead to burnout in the long run. With companies expecting employees to come back to office 3-4 days a week and if you add the commute time, it will be a double whammy for the salaried class," Sharma pointed out.

She said this will further push women away from formal jobs as they will not be able to commit to such long hours. "There could be a possibility that employees will move out of the state and look at spaces with more flexibility," she explained.

Several employees from the IT sector opined that post-Covid, individuals have started prioritising their physical and mental health, including the need to spend time with their families. "Since we are not sure what the whole bill entails, at the outset, if the intention is to increase productivity, then this seems reductant. Individuals who work global shifts do end up working more than their mandated work hours. This will only increase prep-time, device time and strain on one's body," said a customer success manager at an IT company in Bengaluru. He added that the attrition rate may spike, especially the top talent, if the amendments are brought in.

Another software developer, who works 10-11 hours on an average, expressed that anyone over 35 years old with any comorbidities will not be able to cope or get paid fairly. "This is a direct affront to fair wages, equity or even long-term profitability. With mounting work pressure, health and insurance payouts will become frequent and premiums will be higher," he emphasised.

IT dept says bill won't include all companies

Official sources in the IT department, on condition of anonymity, told TNIE that the bill is expected to be tabled in the ongoing monsoon session which will clarify several doubts. "Employees might be misinformed on the whole bill. The aim is to empower the sunrise sectors and make the state globally competent. The 14-hour workday will not apply to all IT companies, but only to a few verticals. These companies will have to apply for the new work hours and only after all the checks, will they be granted permission," the sources said.

The bill also mentions that employees have to sign a consent form agreeing to the new rules and they will have to be suitably compensated for the extra time by the employers, they said. "If employees don't want to work 14 hours a day, they will have the option to follow the old routine," they added.

MASTER'S BLESSINGS

Devotees pay obeisance to Shirdi Sai Baba, on the occasion of Guru Purnima, at Kohinoor Ground on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Drunk men stop car, attack 2 brothers

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A 24-year-old admission counsellor of a private university in the city and his brother were attacked by seven miscreants, who were reportedly drunk, on Thursday.

T Iman Khan and his brother T Amin Khan, a restaurateur, were returning home from Kothanur around 1.45 am when one of the accused stood in front of their car on Mother Theresa Anthony Church Road at Mariyannapalya and refused to let them go.

When Iman and Amin stepped out of the car and requested him to let them go, the other accused rushed to the spot.

The accused took the jack and other tools from the car and attacked Iman and Amin. They also broke the windshields of the car. With no help coming, Iman and Amin fled the spot.

They filed a police complaint after getting treatment in a local hospital.

"We were returning home from our restaurant at Kothanur when one of the accused stopped our car and refused to let us go. Soon other accused joined him and started attacking us. They took the tools from our car and assaulted us. All of them were drunk," Iman told *TNSE*.

"One of the accused has been identified as Akshay Richard. We have details of all the accused and action will be taken against them," a police officer said.

Not for gender-neutral sex offence laws: Women's fed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) has strongly opposed the state government's proposal to make rape and other sexual offence laws 'gender-neutral'. In a consultation meeting held here on Sunday, the Federation said it will be submitting a comprehensive memorandum that includes strengthening laws against marital rape, establishing a dedicated sector for transgender issues, and empowering the transgender community to assert their property rights to the state government. They also called for stricter laws against gender-based discrimination.

BT Venkatesh, an advocate from Bengaluru, emphasized the need for inclusive measures to protect the transgender community without compromising women's rights and said, "Gender neutrality should aim to bring equality, not evoke anti-feminist sentiments among people, which is a patriarchal mindset."

Providing an overview of circumstances in rural areas, he explained, "In rural areas, women who are subjected to rape are sometimes pressured by authorities to marry their assailants as a solution. This unjust practice deprives the victim of freedom and voice."

He added, "It's crucial to address gender neutrality to protect the transgender community from sexual assault and rape, but modifying laws meant to protect women is merely a facade." Retired DGP Jija Hari Singh said, "Gender neutrality is seen as a step towards development, but it is important to focus on the fact that the existing laws should not be diluted but rather, new gender-neutral laws should be implemented."

In agreement with Singh, Akkai Padmashali, a transgender rights activist, expressed anger at the proposal, arguing that it would give leeway to assailants. Akkai urged that the transgender community has its own set of laws for protection, like POCSO and women's rape laws, adding that the lack of political reservation, employment opportunities and sports reservations for the transgender community is a barrier to achieving this goal.

CCB SEIZES FAKE APPLE PRODUCTS

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE CCB raided stores selling counterfeit products, including fake branded chargers, music earbuds, and electric copper wires, and seized items worth Rs 14 lakh in two separate cases.

Sleuths of the CCB's Economic Offence Wing arrested a 27-year-old retailer, who was selling fake Apple-branded products. The accused has been identified as Jeethesh Raj.

Police said that based on a tip-off, the CCB raided a shop near Chickpet on July 19 and found fake products, including fake AirPods, USB cables, and chargers worth Rs 8 lakh. The accused was arrested based on a complaint registered against him at the City Market police station.

In another incident, sleuths raided a store in the Mahadevapura police station limits on July 18, and recovered fake electric copper wire, made to look branded, worth Rs 6.20 lakh, and arrested the store owner.

App-based cab pick-up points to debut at SMVT

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

FOR the convenience of passengers, the Bengaluru Railway Division is introducing designated parking space for app-based cab aggregators that will serve as pick-up points at Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in Baiyappanahalli. The contract for this has been awarded to a Mumbai-based firm and the new system will be in place in a fortnight.

A top official said, "The firm, ODS Protective Services Pvt Ltd, has been awarded the contract for a three-year period at SMVT. It will onboard the app-based cab aggregators and manage them. Railways will be paid Rs 3 lakh annually as licence fee by the concern." As of now, the company plans to launch the services on August 6.

An initiative on these lines was attempted at KSR Bengaluru railway station six years ago, but it wound up shortly after the aggregator walked out of the contract citing lack of profit.

Presently, the space allotted is 120 sqft on the entry on the Banaswadi side. "We will also be tendering another space for cab aggregators measuring 102 sqft on the other entry, the Baiyappanahalli side, shortly," he said.

At present, the space outside the station is chaotic with cabs booked by public parking all over. "We do have designated pre-paid auto and taxi points which we will shift to the middle so that public who alight can immediately spot them. The new designated parking space will come at the right end of the station when one arrives," he said.

RESPIRATORY HAZARDS

Docs warn against 'baby powders' containing talc

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WITH the World Health Organisation's (WHO) cancer research department categorising talc as "probably carcinogenic" for humans, experts have emphasised that children, especially those under five years of age, should not be exposed to talc to minimise inhalation risks.

Talcum powder, which contains talc as a primary ingredient, is often used on infants and young children for its absorbent and soothing properties. Talc, however, contains asbestos – a known carcinogen conclusively linked to an increased risk of lung cancer when inhaled.

Some notable evidence links talc to ovarian cancer in women who have used talcum powder in the genital area. Additionally, studies in animals have shown that talc can induce tumours in experimental settings. However, unlike in adults, where concerns primarily revolve around ovarian cancer risk, experts highlight and mention that the main focus of research on children has been on the potential inhalation of talc particles, which could lead to respiratory issues.

Experts advise that parents should either use alternatives or 'not use anything' on children to minimise potential health concerns.

Dr Niti Raizada, Senior Director - Medical Oncology and Hemato-Oncology at Fortis Hospital, highlighted that talc has been identified as potentially

harmful, based on evidence suggesting a possible link between talc use, particularly in genital areas, and ovarian cancer.

"Talc particles can migrate through the reproductive system and potentially cause inflammation, which might contribute to cancerous changes over time," she explained, highlighting that while the exact mechanisms are still being studied, it is advised to minimise exposure to talc-containing products, especially in sensitive areas, as a precautionary measure.

However, Dr Srinivas BJ, Consultant Medical Oncologist at HCG Cancer Centre, highlighted the need for increased awareness and research.

"The classification of talc as 'probably' cancer-causing underscores the importance of further research and public awareness to ensure patient safety and informed choices regarding talc-containing products," Dr Srinivas said and added that is essential for both healthcare providers and the public to stay informed and consider all evidence when making health-related decisions, as it does not confirm a direct causative link.

GMDC

TENDER NOTICE

Appointment of Consultant for Comprehensive Consultancy Services including Architectural Design Development, Transaction Advisory and PMC for Prefabricated Structures for Schools at Angul and Sundargarh Districts, Odisha State

Tender Advt. No.: GMDC-GVT/CSR/02/24-25 Date: 22/07/2024

Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced organizations by GMDC-Gramya Vikas Trust for Appointment of Consultant for Comprehensive Consultancy Services including Architectural Design Development, Transaction Advisory and PMC for Prefabricated Structures for Schools at Angul and Sundargarh Districts, Odisha State.

The detailed schedule of e-tender and tender document is available at the n-procure website (https://gmdctender.nprocure.com) and in Tender section on the website of GMDC-GVT. (https://www.gmdcgvt.org/);

Last date for submission of bids (Online): 12/08/2024, 18:00 Hrs.

Last date for submission of Technical Bids (Hardcopy): 13/08/2024, 17:00 Hrs.

CEO, GMDC-GVT

EXPLORING LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

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Gramya Vikas Trust (GMDC-GVT)

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Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that 33kV cables running along the BMRCL viaduct and 750 V DC Third Rail laid on the viaduct section at the following locations are being progressively test charged with effect from 22.07.2024.

(i) Reach 3 Section Between BMRCL's Nagasandra Station to BIEC Station Plantform [Manjunath Nagar Station, Jindal Metro Station and BIEC Station].

Any direct contact with 750V DC Third Rail or 33kV cables could be Fatal. Hence public at large are cautioned not to enter the viaduct in these areas without authorization. BMRCL will not be responsible for any injury or casualty arising out of this unauthorized act.

This is issued in the interest of Public Safety.

Sd/- Executive Director (Traction), BMRCL.

A day after the grandchildren of the original owner of the land, which was allegedly transferred to CM Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi complained to the DC that the plot had been illegally sold, BJP leaders on Sunday extended support to the family, demanding justice for them

2 years of crop loss, drought, rising cost of cultivation and uncertainty over water release has added to farmers' worries in the Cauvery basin

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE, BUT NOT A DROP FOR CROPS?

Over 35,000 cusecs of water of River Cauvery being released from the crest gates of the KRS reservoir, following heavy rain, on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

AFTER two years, Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir is brimming, with incessant rain lashing Kodagu district and Wayanad region in the Kabini catchment area, bringing cheer to the people who were badly affected by severe drought and a harsh summer. But the rain and brimming reservoirs have not enthused farmers to return to their fields.

The impact of last year's severe drought and shadow of the ongoing water tussle with Tamil Nadu has sapped the enthusiasm of farmers in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka. Though the Cauvery, the lifeline of South Karnataka, is is full flow and KRS dam is likely to fill up anytime, there are no celebrations among the farming community as there is still uncertainty on water release and the crop pattern.

A field visit to the Cauvery basin showcased the plight of farmers who have so far not even prepared their land for sowing. Though many tried to grow paddy and sugarcane earlier this year, hoping the government would release water during the Lok Sabha elections to keep the electorate (farmers) in good humour, their hopes were shattered as the government took a tough call and did not even supply water to meet their drinking water needs.

Sidde Gowda, a farmer of Sabbanakuppe, is in no mood to take a risk as he has already lost his sugarcane crop on three acres. "How can I borrow or invest any more when the government did not give water for standing crops last year, though there was sufficient water in the reservoir," he asked.

Sidde Gowda says it would be double investment for him, as he would have to spend on removing the dried-up cane crop and plough his fields again to prepare for paddy transplantation. What is the guarantee that the authorities will supply water for the paddy crop, is the question bothering him.

Thammanachari of K Shettahalli is not enthused by a brimming reservoir, and is awaiting an official announcement by the Irrigation Consultative Committee. "We did not cultivate crops during the previous year as the irrigation department expressed its inability to give water for irrigation. I started farming activities with the hope that they may supply water for at least one crop.

The farmers admit that the delayed monsoon added to their woes, and Tamil Nadu approached the Central Water Management Authority and apex court for the release of its share of water on a daily basis. To add to the farmers' anguish, the Irrigation Consultative Committee that met last week decided to release water to fill tanks in the achukat, and will take a decision on supplying water to crops in the 'on and off' system that further spiked their hopes.

Though Agriculture Minister NM Chaluvarayaswamy said water will be supplied for irrigation in KRS achukat for kharif crops, the administration has so far played it safe by not convening the Irrigation Consultative Committee and meeting with stakeholders in the command area to offer a clear picture of water release, crop patterns and other issues, which is keeping farmers on their toes.

Shivanna, a farmer from Keragodu, said farmers suffered losses in crores during the last season as they lost paddy and sugarcane crops because the government did not supply water for irrigation when the KRS water level was 92ft as against 124.8ft. The government of the day was more focused on meeting the CWMA to meet Tamil Nadu's demand for water, than on meeting local farmers' requirements.

BIG PICTURE

No resources

Agricultural activities have taken a back seat in Mandya, known as the Sugar Bowl, and for paddy cultivation as most of them have no resources to purchase seeds and fertilizers due to the losses they suffered last year due to severe drought. Banks are reluctant to offer fresh loans to farmers as they have huge outstanding loan dues.

Krishna, a sugarcane grower, said the five sugar factories that resumed crushing need 30,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day. He said it is difficult to meet their requirements as sugarcane cultivation has come down from 45,000 hectares to 30,000 hectares.

The increase in the cost of cultivation, labour and agriculture inputs, and fall in yield have rubbed salt on the wounds of farmers already hit by the drought. He observed that private moneylenders are not in the mood to give them loans as they know the farmers are unwilling to take up farming, and have no repayment capacity.

However, Krishna felt that farming activities may pick up in the district once sugar factories start crushing, making payments and the Irrigation Consultative Committee assures farmers of water for paddy cultivation, instead of advising the farmers to grow semi-dry crops.

The farmers feel that sugarcane prices may shoot up due to shortage of cane in the Cauvery basin, and jaggery units are buying at competitive levels, paying Rs2800 per tonne.

Agriculture department authorities admit that Mandya district, that grows paddy on 65,000 hectares, had registered paddy cultivation on 35,000 hectares and most of them suffered losses and sugarcane cultivation took a beating.

The sudden copious rain over the past few days that raised the reservoir level from 106ft to 120ft has restored the life and vigour of Cauvery, and made farmers reap the benefit of nature's benevolence and start agricultural activities on 15 per cent of the area.

TANKS FILL UP

Kabini reservoir is brimming and has catered more to Tamil Nadu's requirement than to the farmers of the region. The demand for Kabini's second stage has not taken off, which would expand the irrigated area in parts of Yalandur, Kollegal, Chamarajanagar and Gundlupet taluks. Though 38 tanks are filled under the tank filling project, there is a demand to fill more tanks that would reach the underground water table and increase the irrigated area. The proposal to link Chikkahole-Suvaranavathi reservoirs and fill up a majority of tanks in drought-hit Chamarajanagar district would change the topography and strengthen agro-economy in the region.

TRACING WATER FLOW

- CWRC ordered Karnataka to release 20tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu, at the rate of 1tmcft per day till the end of July
- Karnataka calls all-party meeting, decides to release 8000 cusecs per day
- TN holds all-party meeting, hints of approaching SC if its quota is not released
- In a normal year, Karnataka has to release 9.4tmcft of water in June and 31.24 tmcft in July, totalling 40.43 tmcft
- Kabini brims due to copious rain over Wayanad
- Karnataka releases 70,000 cusecs from Kabini
- KRS level shoots up from 108ft to 119ft in 4-5 days
- Around 5tmcft of water inflow recorded into KRS
- Harangi and Hemavathi reservoirs are full
- Discharge of 17,000 cusecs from Harangi, 11,000 cusecs from Hemavathi increases inflow into KRS

DAM	Max level	Live level	Inflow	Outflow
KRS	124.80ft	122.70 ft	52,046 cusecs	17,034 cusecs
Kabini	2284.00 ft	2280.87 ft	42,261 cusecs	40,000 cusecs
Hemavathi	2,922 ft	2,918.80 ft	40,267 cusecs	11,229 cusecs

BJP yet to appoint Opposition leader in Council

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

THE BJP, the principal opposition party in the Karnataka assembly, is yet to appoint a leader of opposition (LoP) in the council. While the party has appointed an opposition leader in the lower house, it does not have an LoP in the upper house, where the NDA enjoys a majority.

The position fell vacant after the previous LoP in the upper house, Srinivas Poojary, got elected to Parliament from Udupi-Chickmagalur. The BJP realised it needs a strong leader in the upper house and got former MLA CT Ravi, who was defeated from Chikkamagaluru, into the upper house. Until now, the party has not legitimized his position as leader.

This is precisely what the party did in the assembly, where it kept the LoP position vacant for seven months -- May to November -- and filled it up only in late November when Vokkaliga leader R Ashoka was appointed leader of the opposition. Experts argue that the lack of a leader makes it disadvantageous to the opposition party and weakens democratic spirit.

The NDA enjoys a majority in the upper house. Though the Congress is the single largest party with 35 seats, the BJP with 29 seats and ally JDS with 8 seats, and an independent together make up 38 seats. This mutual alliance is sealed by council chairman Basavaraj Horatti, who switched to the BJP from the JDS.

It has been five days since the House commenced and the BJP has not formally appointed a leader in the upper house. BJP sources claim there is a definite conspiracy in this, while Ravi said he would not like to comment. Ravi, who was a minister earlier, resigned to serve as national general secretary of the party, and will be a match for Congress leader BK Hariprasad, who too has served as general secretary for 16 terms.

Some say that Ravi's caste could go against him: he is a Vokkaliga, while Ashoka, who is LoP in the lower house, is also a Vokkaliga, and this could lead to a demand for the post from other communities. Add to this, ally JDS leader in the upper house is Bhoje Gowda, a Vokkaliga from Chikkamagaluru, from where Ravi hails. While Ravi has unofficially led the charge against the Congress on these five days and embarrassed the ruling Congress, it remains to be seen if his services will be recognised.

B'day wish: Supporters want Kharge to be CM

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

ON his 82nd birthday on Sunday, AICC president M Mallikarjun Kharge received wishes from various quarters, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Many of his supporters, who had gathered at his residence here, wanted him to become Karnataka chief minister. There have been murmurs that senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi advised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during his visit to New Delhi, to propose Kharge's name should such a situation arise.

Sources said that Sonia's advice came after differences emerged between the camps of Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar over seeking more DCM posts and Shivakumar becoming CM. It is said that Sonia told Siddaramaiah that he should stop his supporters from sparking a controversy.

Supporters of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge celebrate his birthday near his residence in Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru, on Sunday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Later, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi issued a statement, asking partymen to toe the high command line, and eventually Siddaramaiah's supporters stopped issuing statements, a Congress leader said. Kharge's name for chief minister is being considered because Rahul Gandhi is showing signs of being an effective leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, while Kharge has had less scope in the Rajya Sabha as leader of opposition, sources said.

Also, the AICC president's post could go to a leader from North India. In that case, Sonia wants to give Kharge a graceful sendoff with the chief minister's post, they added.

If the Congress government, mired in alleged scandals, continues to lose sheen, the party could decide Kharge as the best candidate to contain the damage. Then, nobody in the state Congress, including Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, would question it, a leader said.

Siddaramaiah put up a detailed post on 'X', praising Kharge. "His(Kharge's) struggle to uphold the aspirations of the Constitution of India as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha occupies a significant place in the history of Indian politics. Kharge's fighting spirit as the leader of the opposition, when the country was under the shadow of a dictatorial regime that undermined the democratic system itself, ignited the angry spark of questioning the anti-people government in the hearts of millions of people in this country," Siddaramaiah posted.

Incredibly proud of PhonePe's B'luru roots: CEO apologises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DAYS after several social media users in Karnataka began boycotting digital payment app PhonePe, following its co-founder and CEO Sameer Nigam's criticism of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's proposed job reservation bill, Nigam issued a statement on Sunday, emphasising his respect for Karnataka and its people, tendering an unconditional apology if his comments have hurt anyone's sentiments.

After the state government mooted the bill proposing job reservation for Kannadigas in the private sector, Nigam had stated, "I am 46 years old. Never lived in a state for more than 15 years. My father worked in the Indian Navy and was posted all over the country. Do his kids not deserve jobs in Karnataka? I build companies and have created over 25,000 jobs across India! Do my kids not deserve jobs in their home city?"

Following his post, hashtags such as #UninstallPhonePe and #BoycottPhonePe started trending on social media, with numerous users sharing screen recordings of uninstalling the digital payment app.

After drawing flak, Nigam issued a statement, saying, "PhonePe was born in Bengaluru and we are incredibly proud of our roots in this city, known for its world-class technology talent and vibrant diversity."

"As a company, we thrive on celebrating diversity, and we have always strived to deliver fair, unbiased, and meritocracy-based employment opportunities for all Indians, including local Kannadigas," Nigam said. "We believe such an approach allows every Indian a chance to shine, creating more societal and economic value for Bengaluru, Karnataka, and India."

Bengaluru's Indian startups are competing against trillion-dollar giants like Google, Apple, Amazon, and Microsoft. To do so, these companies must be able to employ the very best talent

Sameer Nigam, CEO, PhonePe

Nigam reiterated his high regard for Kannada and all Indian languages, stressing the importance of respecting and celebrating linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

"Bengaluru's Indian startups are competing against trillion-dollar giants like Google, Apple, Amazon, and Microsoft. To do so, these companies must be able to employ the very best talent available in India purely based on their technology skills and proficiency in fields such as coding, design, product management, data sciences, machine learning, AI, and beyond," Nigam explained, adding, "As a nation, that is the only way we can build world-class companies that can compete globally."

Nigam also expressed his commitment to creating lakhs of jobs for Bengaluru and Karnataka, advocating for dialogue and discussion to find sustainable employment solutions. "Let's all work together to create long-term impact," he concluded.

Biocon name board defaced after founder opposes bill

ENS @ Bengaluru

UNIDENTIFIED individuals smeared black paint on a name board of Biocon, after its founder, **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, opposed the proposed reservation for Kannadigas in the private sector. Many other industry leaders and IT tycoons have also opposed the bill.

A video that went viral on social media shows black paint smeared on the logos and name of Biocon, but there is no confirmation about the location. A pro-Kannada organisation shared the video of the smeared paint on social media. After facing backlash from industry and entrepreneurs, the Karnataka government on Wednesday put the reservation bill on hold. Earlier on Monday, the bill was passed in the cabinet. It stated that 50% of all management jobs and 70% of all non-management jobs in the private companies are to reserved for locals.

A social media post of Mazumdar-Shaw said, "As a tech hub, we need skilled talent and whilst the aim is to provide jobs for locals, we must not affect our leading position in technology by this move. There must be caveats that exempt highly-skilled recruitment from this policy."

Destination Uttarakhand

STRENGTHENING RURAL ECONOMY, PROMOTING LOCAL PRODUCE

Driven by the vision of PM Narendra Modi, the Uttarakhand government led by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has undertaken various initiatives that promote and market the hill state's well-crafted products. A significant step in this direction is the formation of 'House of Himalayas', a flagship brand created to bring Uttarakhand's high-quality, genuine products to both domestic and global markets

"Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to the holistic development of our state, leveraging its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Through sustainable policies and strategic initiatives, we aim to foster economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Our goal is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where tradition meets innovation, and every individual can thrive in a conducive environment for prosperity and well-being."

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister

House of Himalayas

Boosting rural economy of Uttarakhand

PICS: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami presenting 'House of Himalayas' brand products to PM Narendra Modi at GIS 2023, Dehradun

Nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand is well-known for its beautiful landscapes, along with its rich treasure trove of organic and traditionally prepared products. Identifying the untouched potential of these products and the demand to strengthen rural livelihoods, the Uttarakhand government has been working actively by undertaking several schemes.

ABOUT 'HOUSE OF HIMALAYAS'

On December 8, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi founded 'House of Himalayas' during the Global Investor Summit of Uttarakhand, marking it as an unparalleled initiative. This initiative sought to capsulise various small-scale brands and products under one strong, cohesive identity. The purpose of House of Himalayas is to improve the business opportunities of these unique products, which include goods made by Self-Help Groups (SHGs), crafters, individual entrepreneurs, and community-based societies.

The state boasts of a wide range of organic products that are nutritionally rich and have very little chemical impact. While a few private players exist, the majority of these products have not tapped into a broader consumer base. Therefore, House of Himalayas seeks to close this gap by offering a robust platform that ensures quality assurance, provides expert business guidance, and implements effective marketing strategies.

KEY DIFFERENTIATORS OF HOUSE OF HIMALAYAS

Superior Quality: House of Himalayas distinguishes itself with products that are known for their uncompromising quality and premium craftsmanship, which sets them apart from mass-generated alternatives.

Authenticity Assured: Focused on traditional methods and authentic experiences, the products under this initiative go through rigorous quality controls and hold certifications verifying their exceptional quality.

Community Commitment: Choosing House of Himalayas means supporting the local communities through meaningful social initiatives, and promoting positive change with every purchase.

Open Sourcing: The initiative prioritises complete transparency when it comes to sourcing materials and production processes, thus ensuring consumer trust.

Sustainability Focus: With sustainable sourcing and production practices, the brand caters to buyers who appreciate ethical consumption.

Holistic Brand Experience: A holistic experience is offered by enclosing compelling storytelling, educational insights, and immersive programmes that enhance every consumer journey.

LAUNCH BY PM NARENDRA MODI

The launch of 'House of Himalayas' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated a noteworthy milestone in Uttarakhand's journey towards economic autonomy and rural advancement. At the Global Investor Summit, the Prime Minister emphasised the brand's potential to promote Uttarakhand's products to meet international standards of quality. This initiative resonates with his vision of 'Vocal for Local, Local to Global', advocating for the global promotion of local products. By acknowledging the exceptional value of Uttarakhand's organic and traditional products, the Prime Minister highlighted the significance of empowering rural communities and building sustainable livelihoods.

CM PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI'S E-COMMERCE PUSH

Yet another noteworthy action was taken to increase the visibility and accessibility of the state's products on July 5, 2024. The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami, in association with Amazon India, initiated House of Himalayas into the e-commerce giant's platform. This initiative is aimed at making the state's products available to a more expansive consumer base, both within India and the global markets.

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami with Radhika Jha, secretary, rural development, and other officials, signing an MoU with an e-commerce platform for House of Himalayas

At the launch event, held at the secretariat, CM Dhami bought local products, representing the state's loyalty to sustaining its own. He stressed that the primary objective of House of Himalayas is to take Uttarakhand's local products to an international level. The CM emphasised that most of the processing and production of these products is carried out by self-help groups, thereby strengthening the livelihood of women and rural communities.

Radhika Jha, secretary, rural development, highlighted the strategic categorisation of products under House of Himalayas. These comprise GI-tagged products, organic and food products, and scented products, each undergoing category-wise branding to improve their market presence.

"I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Uttarakhand's 'organic' tale of success

UOCB has played a vital part in the organic cultivation movement in India, setting up vast supply chains and developing the 'Organic Uttarakhand' brand

Formed on May 19, 2003, under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, the Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board (UOCB) functions as the nodal agency for boosting organic farming in Uttarakhand. UOCB's mission is to help Uttarakhand develop as the organic capital of India, acquiring sustainable rural growth via organic agriculture methods.

The board's measures span farming and allied sectors, including horticulture, medicinal aromatic plants and herbs, and animal husbandry. UOCB is divided into four key wings: the Technical Cell, the Training Cell, the Certification Cell, and the Marketing Cell. The Technical Cell recognises groups inclined to embrace organic agriculture, forms farmer groups and creates cultivation techniques. The Training Cell furnishes farmers with the required aptitudes via demonstrations, training sessions, and different academic materials. The Certification Cell encourages organic certification for farms and stores, while the Marketing Cell promotes organic produce to B2B customers via exhibits and panels.

In recent years, UOCB's endeavours have demonstrated noteworthy outcomes. In 2019, farmers under UOCB's direction partook in 35 fairs and exhibits, yielding ₹28 lakh in sales and building a market worth ₹210 lakh. By 2020-21, despite the problems posed by the pandemic, farmers still partook in 11 fairs, achieving ₹8 lakh in sales and yielding a market worth ₹85 lakh.

UOCB has played a vital part in the organic cultivation movement in India, setting up vast supply chains and developing the 'Organic Uttarakhand' brand. Their offerings contain different grains and cereals like Dehradooni Basmati Rice, Pusa-1 Basmati, Red Rice, and wheat. The spice range includes bay leaf, black jeera, coriander, ginger, and turmeric. The pulses range includes black chickpeas, black gram, kidney beans, and lentils, along with millets such as barnyard millet and finger millet. Further, they offer apple juice, detergent powder, groundnut, herb oils, honey, mustard oil, soapnut, sugar, temperate fruits, and fresh vegetables.

A step to promote local handloom & handicraft

The craftsmanship of Uttarakhand, embedded in age-old practices, has been a significant basis of livelihood for regional people for years

In the domain of conventional craftsmanship, Uttarakhand's handloom sarees maintain a unique position alongside well-known products from other states. The craftsmanship of Uttarakhand, embedded in age-old practices, has been a significant basis of livelihood for regional residents for years. Realising the prospect of this domain for further job prospects and financial evolution, the Uttarakhand government founded the Uttarakhand Handloom & Handicraft Development Council (UHHDC).

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

A registered society set up by the government, the UHHDC functions as the apex body for the overall growth of handlooms and handicrafts in the state. Its task is to encourage, direct, and manage the state's craftspeople, enabling sustainable work via the promotion of handicrafts. Under the reputed label 'Himadri', UHHDC has emerged as a hallmark of quality and genuineness for craft products stemming from Uttarakhand. The 'Himadri' label promises that buyers acquire authentic, handcrafted products, while also assuring appropriate revenue for the crafters' hard work and talent.

UHHDC's measures to facilitate Uttarakhand's handloom and handicraft products spread far beyond the state. Beneath the Himadri brand, these magnificent products are showcased at prestigious occasions such as Craft Bazaars, Dilli Haat, International Trade Fairs, and the Surajkund Mela. Crafters from Uttarakhand have the chance to show their creations to a wider audience, earning praise and fondness for their craftsmanship. Himadri showrooms are strategically situated in major places such as Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Haldwani, Haridwar, and Uttarakhand Sadan in New Delhi, assuring overall accessibility to these special products.

In addition to physical showrooms, UHHDC has developed a beneficial collaboration with the well-known e-commerce platform Amazon, extending the reach of Uttarakhand's handicrafts internationally. This alliance has resulted in the flourishing sale of handicraft products worth lakhs of rupees, garnering global praise and honour. Via this endeavour, craftspeople are furnished with a forum to showcase their skill to a global audience, assuring their art is valued and cherished on a multinational level.

As the nodal agency of the government, UHHDC diligently puts up multiple art fairs, exhibits, and promotional occasions throughout the year. These endeavours furnish crafters with a venue to exhibit their dexterities as well as play a vital part in maintaining and elevating Uttarakhand's rich cultural legacy.

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

Doon Silk:

Empowering artisans, reviving tradition

Doon Silk is a label under the Uttarakhand Cooperative Silk Federation (UCRF) and is committed to maintaining and restoring the ancient silk-weaving customs of Uttarakhand

Highlighting the usage of natural fibers, Doon Silk is dedicated to protecting our surroundings and ecosystem while providing magnificent handloom products. The brand's offerings contain silk, wool, cotton, bichhua (nettle), and hemp, all selected for their minimal environmental effect.

Each Doon Silk product is a testament to the talent and artistry of Uttarakhand's farmers, reelers, weavers, craftspeople, and dyers. The label's detailed craftsmanship assures that each article maintains the highest measures of quality, gaining the confidence and respect of buyers globally. By concentrating on handloom methods, Doon Silk maintains conventional techniques as well as furnishes sustainable job prospects to more than 6,000 people in Uttarakhand.

Doon Silk's dedication to purity is depicted in its 100% natural fiber guarantee. This commitment to quality has helped the brand achieve a firm foothold in both national and global markets. With products such as silk sarees, coats, stoles, and shawls, Doon Silk caters to a myriad clientele, assuring that these timeless articles stay available at unbeatable costs.

The global market has especially adopted Doon Silk, with considerable exports to Europe and the US. The label's products have acquired overwhelming reactions, additionally fueling the need for Uttarakhand's conventional silk weaving. By selecting Doon Silk, buyers get excellent products and contribute to the financial empowerment of proficient craftspeople in Uttarakhand.

In nature, Doon Silk is a crusade committed to maintaining legacy, encouraging sustainability, and empowering residents. By means of its uncompromising dedication to quality and custom, Doon Silk persists in making a deep mark, one beautifully prepared product at a time!

#ExploreUttarakhand

@DIPR_UK

Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board: Saga of Himalayan sustainability

The Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board stands as a testament to nature's grace and sustainability, presenting a range of bamboo and nettle products that emphasise the best offerings of the Himalayan province. Among their beautiful innovations are bamboo and nettle lamps, carefully prepared by traditional crafters from Uttarakhand. These lamps, featuring tender cuts, splits, and complex weaves, are made using nettle fiber fabric obtained from the Himalayan foothills. The oval lamps emit a gentle, warm glow, effortlessly mixing natural radiance with grace, enriching any indoor area with their light.

Underscoring an eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle, the board also offers a series of bamboo bottles. Each bottle is enveloped in a high-quality bamboo shell with a long-lasting stainless-steel interior, assuring durable performance while reducing plastic waste. This sleek product flawlessly illustrates the synergy of fashion and sustainability.

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

Objectives and Vision

The primary objective of the ODTP scheme is to boost the traditional and craft industries of Uttarakhand. By identifying and developing local products, the scheme seeks to place these products on the national and international stage, thereby enhancing their marketability and economic value. This initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of sustainable rural development, which emphasises the importance of promoting local products to spur economic growth

The board's foray into eco-textiles is characterised by the introduction of Himalayan nettle, a unique natural fiber. Flourishing between heights of 1200 to 2900 meters in the temperate and sub-tropical Himalayas, this perennial plant presents manifold opportunities. Conventional apparel made from nettle fiber, which dates back thousands of years, is undergoing a revival. Nettle fiber fabrics, known for their intrinsic thermal characteristics, antimicrobial features, and resistance to wrinkling, redefine convenience and fashion.

The Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board helps the environment and sustainable living as well as empowers crafters and encourages marginal tribal communities through promoting nettle fiber products.

Text: Taresh Dutta

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

RGN No. DSK/RKG/9/82-83 Dt 29-7-1982 GST No: 29AAAAR0428E1ZT

ರೈತರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ನಿಯಮಿತ

RYATAR SAHAKARI SAKKARE KARKHANE NIYAMIT,

ರನ್ನನಗರ, ತಿಮ್ಮಾಪುರ – 587 122, ತಾ ಮುಧೋಳ ಜಿ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ)

RANNANAGAR, TIMMAPUR - 587 122, Tq: Mudhol. Dist: Bagalkot (Karnataka)

Mob: 7353988691 E-mail: rannasugartender@gmail.com

Ref: RSSKN/Lease/LROT/2024-25 **Date: 21-07-2024**

Short Term Tender Notification

Pursuant to the orders of Government of Karnataka, No. CI 214 COF 2020, Bengaluru, Dated: 16-07-2024. It is proposed to Lease the Ryatar Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane Ni., Rannangar, Timmapur. Tq: Mudhol. Dist: Bagalkot. sugar factory on **LROT (Lease-Rehabilitate-Operate-Transfer)** bases for a period of 30 years from 2024-25 crushing season. Tenders are invited in two cover bidding System from the interested parties in Karnataka Public Procurement portal from the interested parties as per KTPP act. Prescribed tender documents available in Karnataka Public Portal. (1) The last date for submission of the filled in tenders is scheduled on **22- 08-2024 Thursday at 5-00pm.** (2) Pre-bid meeting is fixed on **29-07-2024 Monday at 11-30 am.** (3) Technical Bids will be opened on **26-08-2024 Monday at 11-30am.** and (4)Financial Bids will be opened on **27-08-2024 Tuesday at 11-30am.** in the office of The Commissioner for Cane Development & Director of Sugar,5th floor, CBAB Complex, KHB Building, Kaveri Bhavan, KG Road Bangaluru.

The details of Tender document and other terms and conditions can be downloaded/viewed in **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender No: **RSSKN/2024- 25/SE0002 Dated: 22-07-2024.** The State Government/ Sugar factory reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
(Danayya Hiremath)
Managing Director (I/c)
Ryatar Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane Ni., Rannangar, Timmapur. Tq: Mudhol. & Deputy Registrar of cooperative Societies., Bagalkote Dist Bagalkote

Sd/-
(Shweta Mohan Beedikar)
Special Officer
Ryatar Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane Ni., Rannangar, Timmapur. Tq: Mudhol.& Assistant CommissionerJamkhandi Sub-Div Jamkhandi

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CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the Branch Offices at **Door No.252, Sureka Complex, 100 Feet Road (Near Jalahalli Cross), Peenya, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural - 560057, Bengaluru-Peenya Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **18-04-2024** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) Mr. Eshwar Rao, S/o. Late Ranoji Rao, No.13/5, Eshwar Rao Compound, 4th Cross, 8th Mile Circle, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560057. No.2) Mr. Manoj Rao, S/o. Eshwar Rao, No. 13/5, Eshwar Rao Compound, 4th Cross, 8th Mile Circle, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560057. No.3) Mrs. Sushma .G, W/o. Manoj Rao, No.13/5, Eshwar Rao Compound, 4th Cross, 8th Mile Circle, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560057** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.66,09,274/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakh Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Four only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **08-04-2024** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 18th day of July 2024.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.62,89,527/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Seven only)** and interest thereon from **24-06-2024** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A

Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mr. Manoj Rao, S/o. Eshwar Rao)

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.12, Khatha No. 38/1B, Old Nagarasabha Division No.17, Now comes under BBMP Limit, PID No.039-W-0261-21-1, Ward No.39, situated at Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwantpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property belongs to Bhavani Sawmill, North by : Property belongs to Smt. Leelabai and South by : Property belongs to Hitashree. Measuring : East to West 60 feet, North to South : 27½, Total measuring 1,650 Sq. ft.

Property - 2 : (Property Owned by Mr. Eshwar Rao, S/o. Late Ranoji Rao & Mr. Manoj Rao, S/o. Eshwar Rao)

All the piece and parcel of the Southern Portion of Property bearing No. 7, Khatha No. 256, Present 526, Old Nagarasabha Division No.17, Now comes under BBMP Limit, situated at Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwantpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property belongs to Venkamma, North by : Remaining Portion of same Property and South by : Property belongs to Sri. Rangaswamy. Measuring : East to West - 80 feet, North to South - 35.6 feet, Total measuring 2,848 Sq. ft.

Property - 3 : (Property Owned by Mr. Manoj Rao, S/o. Eshwar Rao)

All the piece and parcel of the Northern portion of Property bearing No. 7, Khatha No. 256, Old Nagarasabha Division No.17, Now comes under BBMP Limit, situated at Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwantpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property belongs to Venkamma, North by : Property belongs to Smt. Kamalamma and South by : Remaining portion of same Property. Measuring : East to West - 80 feet, North to South - 35.5 feet, Total measuring 2,840 Sq. ft.

Place : Bengaluru, Date : 18-07-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

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Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Malleshwaram 10th Cross Branch
No.16, 10th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003
Ph: 080-23441879 / 23344127, E-mail: vjmawa@bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE TO BORROWER

(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

'At your request, Bank has extended credit facilities to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its **Bank of Baroda.** The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement/documents & creation of mortgage by way deposit of title deeds are furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facilities have become irregular, the debts have been classified as Non Performing Assets in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrowers in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice sent by register AD calling upon you, was un-served/not acknowledged, this publication is now issued.

1.Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mrs. Nemelipuri Pushpalatha W/o Mr.Krishna Chandra Srikanth Nemelipuri, D/o Mr. Theppala Krishna Rao, **(Guarantor) Mr. Theppala Krishna Rao** S/o Mr. Laxminarayana Rao, **Both are residing at:** 53-38-7, 4F-4, Shiva Karthik Residency, KRM Colony, Seetammadhara, Visakhapatanam, Andhra Pradesh-530013.

Nature and Type of Facility	Limit (Rs.) in Lakhs	Rates of Interest	O/s as on 29.05.2024 (inclusive of interest up to 04.02.2024)
Baroda Home Loan A/c No.89390600001930	Rs. 4,24,00,000/-	10.25%pa	Rs.4,06,03,360/-
Baroda Home Suvidha Loan A/c No.89390600001929	Rs. 29,00,000/-	11.00%pa	Rs.27,86,450/-

Brief Description of the Secured Assets and Security Agreements:

Equitable Mortgage created vide Document bearing Registration No.SRJ-1-09004-2022-23 dated 31.01.2023 on property mentioned hereunder:

Schedule A Property: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing residentially converted land in **Sy No.119/2** (Vide Official Memorandum No.ALN(A)(SH)SR98A/2011-12 dated 21/10/2011 issued by the Deputy commissioner, Bangalore District), presently bearing Handenahalli Village Panchayath Khata No.92/180, situated at S. Medahalli Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, totally measuring 69815 Sq.ft. (Out of the total extent of **1 Acres 32 Guntas,** an area measuring **52'10"x162'8"** on the Northern Side is left for the Road widening) and the land bounded on: East by : Property bearing Sy No.119/1, West by: Property bearing Sy No.119/3, North: Road, South by: Property bearing Sy No.117.

Schedule B Property: 2333.54 Sq.ft., Share of undivided interest in the schedule A Property with a right to construct and own Schedule C Property is the subject matter of sale in this Deed.

Schedule C Property: Apartment / residential **unit No.180/7A** also known as A6, (presently bearing E Khata No.180/7A, Sl No. 150200102701020439) on the basement, ground, first and second floors, of **VAISHANAVI ANANTYA,** being constructed on Schedule 'A' Property in terms of sanction plan, vide LAO 91/2011-12, dated 10.02.2012, duly sanctioned by the Anekal Development Authority, consisting of living, dining room, **4 Bedrooms,** kitchen, bathroom/s and toilet/s, balconies, servant's room together with common areas and facilities attributable thereto, with a super built up area of **5121.65 sq.ft.** (Built up area / plinth area is 3812.265Sq.ft and proportionate common area is 1309.293 sq.ft), and A Covered car parking space, measuring **270 sq.ft**, along within the exempted amenities. The Villa is of RCC roofing, vitrified tiled flooring, wooden doors and windows and the Villa is bounded by: East by : Boulevard and Mayura Daffodils, West by : Villa No.180/8B, North by : Villa No. 180/6A, South by : Indus International School.

Amount Outstanding : Rs 4,33,89,810 (Rupees Four Crore Thirty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Ten Only) as on 29.05.2024 plus expenses and further interest. within 60 days from the date of the publication this notice.

NPA Date : 04.05.2024 **Demand Date : 29.05.2024**

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13), you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

***Note: Paper publication of Demand Notice made on 03.07.2024 in Kannadaprbha, Indian Express Newspaper in Karnataka and made on 04.04.2024 in Business standards and Prajashakti Newspaper in Andhrapradesh with respect to Borrower/Guarantor may be ignored due inadvertent error crept in the said Paper publication.**

Date : 20.07.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Bank of Baroda**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that our client Mr.Mohammed Junaid Sullia Aboobaker, intends to purchase immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from the owner Mr.K.U.Rajappan. Any person having any claim/rights/interest in the below said or any objections for the said sale of the property may file their objections in writing along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the below said property and our client shall be advised to proceed with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No.632 in HBR,I Stage,II Block Extension, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 133.33 Sq. Yards. Bounded on:

East by: Site No.631, **West by:** Site No.633, **North by:** Site No.639, **South by:** Road

. Sd/- **Ramappa,** Advocate
Manyatha Apartment Pandit Pattabhi Ramaiah Road, Mavalli, Bengaluru -560004 Ph- **9448388308**
Email: **ramappa.palyam@gmail.com**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Smt. Shalini Sah** W/o.Sri.Saurabh Sah, Aged About 51 Years, Residing at No.209, MB-5, KHB, Surya City, Phase-I, Anekal Road, Chandapura, Bangalore-560099, who is the present owner of below mentioned property and she was having Original Sale Deed dated 30.08.2000, vide Document No.2614/2000-01, Book-I, Volume No.ADR1157, at pages 180 to 184, dated 31.08.2000 registered in the office of Sub- registrar Yelahanka, Bangalore, in respect of Property bearing Flat No.205, 2nd Floor, having Sper built up area 855 Sq.ft along with 436 Sq. ft of Undivided share in Schedule A Property, the building known as "Daffodils III", having present BBMP Katha No.671/205, formed in Municipal No.4/8, situated at Jakkur Plantation, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and the aforesaid Original Sale Deed dated 30.08.2000, in last Page i.e., page No.5 has been lost/misplaced while shifting the house at No.209, MB-5, KHB, Surya City, Phase-1, Anekal Road, Chandapura, Bangalore-560099 on 17.07.2024 and she has made best efforts in tracing the same but efforts were in vain, Further she lodged a police complaint in this regarding on 17.07.2024 with E-lost report No. 1149567/2024, if anyone found the aforesaid document page No.5 may return to me or anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing **within 7 days** from this day to the undersigned.

Date: 21.07.2024 **Place:** Bangalore
SHARANABASAVA B.A., LLB, Advocate,
No. 183/4, Flat No.003, Tennis Village Virupakshapura, Vidyaranya Pura Post, Bengaluru-560097.
Mobile No.9731317981

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that my client has intended to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned below from the owner **SMT. SHANTA SANIKOPPA** Aged about 73 years, Wife of Sri. (Late) Subhas Sanikopp residing at No.8/11, Jayanagara Extn, Vidya Nagar, Hubli, Karnataka-580021 ("the Owner") with respect to the agricultural dry land measuring 01 Acre 08 Guntas comprised in Survey No.66/2, (Old Sy No 66) situated at Heggadagere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District (more fully described in the schedule below and hereinafter referred to as the ("Schedule Property").

Any persons including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, non-banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, inheritance, succession, possession, lease, lien, attachment of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the documents, to the undersigned address within a period of Seven (07) days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF agricultural dry land admeasuring 01 Acre 08 Guntas comprised in Survey No.66/2, (Old Sy No 66) situated at Heggadagere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District bounded as follows:

EAST BY: Land in Sy No.67/2, Sy No.67/3 & Sy No.66/1, WEST BY: Land in Sy No.65; NORTH BY: Banandur Village Border;and SOUTH BY: Land in Sy.No.66/3.

Dated this, the 20th day of July, 2024
Manjunatha Reddy. R, Advocate
No.1932, "Srigandha" 15th A Cross, 9th Main Road,Judicial layout, GKVK Post, Bangalore – 560 065
Email:vanyaassociates@gmail.com

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE - (DRT-2)

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001

O A No: 1758/2023

Between:Canara Bank ...Applicant
Vs
LEWIS FRANCIS DCOSTA & Others ...Defendants

To: D1: LEWIS FRANCIS DCOSTA, aged about 37 years, S/o. Francis John Dcosta, at: No. 82E- Jamna Prasad Chawl, Mogra Village, Andheri- East, Mumbai - 460 069.
D2: Bhaskara Muralidhara, aged about 40 years, S/o. Muralidhar Rao, No. 1534, 39th Cross, 4th T Block - Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 041.

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted the Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of total sum of **Rs.1,93,13,776.67 PS** (Rupees One Crore Ninety Three Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six and Paisa Sixty Seven) only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs.

The above- mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **30/08/2024 at 10.30 AM** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal this the **05th day of June 2024.**

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bengaluru

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- I

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru

O A No.27/2018

Between: Canara Bank ...Applicant
And

1. M/s. NOVATECH INDIA, Represented by its Proprietor, Sri Christopher James Alphonse , No. 30/ Main Narayana Reddy Layout, Dodda Banaswadi, Bengaluru - 560 043. **...Defendant No. 1**

2. Sri Christopher James Alphonse, Prop: M/s. NOVATECH INDIA, S/o. late Sri Anthony Alphonse, No. 8C, 3rd Floor, Nithin Arcade, Rama Murthynagar Main Road, Dodda Banaswadi, Bengaluru - 560 043. **...Defendant No. 2**

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Finanical Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **INR.21,15,090.00** (Rupees Twenty one Lakhs Fifteen Thousand and Ninety only) together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

The above Defendants are therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **29.08.2024 at 10.30 A.M.** as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this **19.03.2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that, my client **D.S. Siddaraju,** aged about 55 years, S/o Choode Gowda, No.101, Muneshwara Layout, 3rd Cross, Devarachikkanahalli, Main Road, Bengaluru-560 068. The Document No.(Sy No. 200, 259,209, Registration at Dekanikote, Darabendrim Village, Krishnagiri District Tamilnadu, Documents No.1346/1986) the said sale deed.

My client the above documents taken Xerox copy of Vijay Bank layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, on 25-06-2024, the said documents were misplaced The said earlier sale Deed was misplaced. The said sale deed was misplaced/lost, if any persons/s come in contact of the same or found they may kindly return the same to below mentioned address. In this regard my client has also lodge a police Complaint in respect of the lost document online which is registered as Lost report 1122777/2024 dated 30-06-2024, this Public Notice calling for the Public to reply to this Notice either by way of person or Notification **within 7 days** of the this Notification.

R.V. RAJASHEKARA, Advocate
No. 39/1, Chamber No.18, 1st Floor, ASVNV Centenary Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009.
Mob: 9845493442. Date: 20/07/2024

WESTERN RAILWAY

PROVISION OF ON GRID SOLAR POWER PLANT

Chief Workshop Manager, EMU Workshop, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400 013, invites **E-Tender Notice No: EL90/MX/2024-25/05 dtd.28.06.2024. Name of the work:** Provision of ON grid Solar Power plant of capacity 1.2 MWp at EMU Workshop Mahalaxmi, Mumbai. **Approx. cost of Work:** ₹ 5,25,80,400/-. **EMD:** ₹ 4,12,900/-. **Date and Time of submission of Tender & opening of tender:** Tender submission up to 12:00 Hrs. on 12.08.2024 (Electronically). **Web site particulars:** Tender particulars can be viewed and offers can be submitted on website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** 0362

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Notice to the Respondents No.22, 24 & 29
Vide order dated: 15.07.2024
R.F.A. No. 1043/2024

Munilakshmaiah, Since dead by his LRS., Sri. Krishnamurthy & Others ... **Appellants**
(By Sriyuths: U. Shivakumar, H.V. Thimmegowda & D. Darpan advs. for appellants) **-V/s-**
Smt. Lakshmamma & Others ... **Respondents**
(By Sriyuths: K.Murthy, B.S.Manjunath & L.Naveen Kumar advs. for C/R33, Harish N.R. adv. for R34 to R36, V. Venkatarama Reddy adv. for R30 to R32)

To. Respondents: 22. SRI. G. PRADEEPKUMAR S/O GOPALAPPA, R/AT KALKERE VILLAGE, HORAMAVU POST, K.R.PURAM HOBLI, BANGALORE EAST TALUK, BANGALORE - 560043.

24. SMT. BHAGYAMMA W/O LATE PUTTAMADAPPA, R/AT KALKERE VILLAGE, HORAMAVU POST, K.R.PURAM HOBLI, BANGALORE EAST TALUK, BANGALORE - 560043.

25. SMT. ASWATHAMMA W/O HOBALA REDDY, R/AT 18TH CROSS, 3RD MAIN ROAD, VIGNESHWARA LAYOUT, HOYSALANAGARA, HORAMAVU POST, BANGALORE - 560043.

Appeal from the Order dated: 16.03.2024 passed on IA NO.24 in OS.No.7244/2008 on the file of the LV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one authorized by law, to act for you in the above appeal on **27-08-2024** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on this 19-07-2024

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that, my client **D.S. Siddaraju,** aged about 55 years, S/o Choode Gowda, No.101, Muneshwara Layout, 3rd Cross, Devarachikkanahalli, Main Road, Bengaluru-560 068. The Document No.(Sy No. 200, 259,209, Registration at Dekanikote, Darabendrim Village, Krishnagiri District Tamilnadu, Documents No.1346/1986) the said sale deed.

My client the above documents taken Xerox copy of Vijay Bank layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, on 25-06-2024, the said documents were misplaced The said earlier sale Deed was misplaced. The said sale deed was misplaced/lost, if any persons/s come in contact of the same or found they may kindly return the same to below mentioned address. In this regard my client has also lodge a police Complaint in respect of the lost document online which is registered as Lost report 1122777/2024 dated 30-06-2024, this Public Notice calling for the Public to reply to this Notice either by way of person or Notification **within 7 days** of the this Notification.

R.V. RAJASHEKARA, Advocate
No. 39/1, Chamber No.18, 1st Floor, ASVNV Centenary Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009.
Mob: 9845493442. Date: 20/07/2024

Debts Recovery Tribunal - I, Bengaluru, 4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru 560001.

OA/918/2023

BETWEEN:
Bank of Baroda. ....Applicant
AND
Mrs. Aruna Kanchana & amp; Anr.
....Defendantsts

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(viii) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION To ;

1. Mrs. Aruna Kanchana W/o. Srinivas Dande, R/a: 702, 7 th floor, SNN Raj Lakeview Apartments, 29 th Main Road, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560 076 PAN: AOAPK2960H

2. Mr. Srinivas Dande S/o. Dande, R/a: 702, 7 th floor, SNN Raj Lakeview Apartments, 29 th Main Road, BTM Layout, 2 nd Stage, Bangalore 560 076 PAN:BYHPS4168K

3. Mr. Manish Kumar Ranja S/o. Manoj Kumar Sinha Having address at: No.29, 41/1, Flat No.3, 2 nd floor, 11 th Cross, 12 th Main, Gokula 1 st Stage, Mathikere Bangalore. **....Defendants**

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application/interlocutory application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a 4 Sum of Rs.1,07,03,150.50/-) with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before 24/09/2024 10.30 A.M in the forenoon in person or by Pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application/interlocutory application will be heard and date remained in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 27/06/2024

Signature of the Officer
(Authorized to issue Summon)
DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL – I BANGALORE

Form No. 6
[See Regulation 15(1)(d)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE - (DRT-2)

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001

I.A. No. 2014/2023
in
O A No: 1758/2023

Between:Canara Bank ...Applicant
Vs
LEWIS FRANCIS DCOSTA & Others ...Defendants

To: D1: LEWIS FRANCIS DCOSTA, aged about 37 years, S/o. Francis John Dcosta, at: No. 82E- Jamna Prasad Chawl, Mogra Village, Andheri- East, Mumbai - 460 069.
D2: Bhaskara Muralidhara, aged about 40 years, S/o. Muralidhar Rao, No. 1534, 39th Cross, 4th T Block - Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 041.

NOTICE

1. Whereas, the applications have been made to this Tribunal. The copy of which is enclosed herewith. This is to give you notice, as to why relief asked for should not be granted. Take notice that the said application will be taken up for hearing by the Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of the Tribunal on **30.08.2024.**

2. You are required to appear in person or by a pleader/Advocate duly instructed at the aforesaid time and file your reply if any.

3. Take notice that in default of your appearanceon the day mentioned herein before, the proceding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this **05th day of June 2024.**

Signature of the Officer authorised to issue summons. **Sd/-Registrar**
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bengaluru

THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BENGALURU

No.1 Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore – 560 001

O A. No. 1145/2022

Between: Canara Bank ...Applicant
And
Sri Rudresh Aradhya M.Y. ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 2 UNDER RULE 23(8) OF THE D.R.T (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993.

To: Sri Rudresh Aradhya M. Y., S/o. Sri Yogesh Aradhya, Proprietor M/s. Veerabhadraeshwara industries, No. 279/18, Arun Residency, Bommasandra Industrial Area ,Anekal, Bengaluru District - 562 107.

Alternate Address: S. G. College, Girinagar, Tarikere, karnataka - 577 228.

Whereas, the above-named applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

You are hereby directed appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or an Authorised agent duly instructed to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on before **29.08.2024 at 10.30 AM** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this the day of **06.05.2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I Bangalore

HASSAN CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED
P.B. NO. 120, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, B.M.ROAD, HASSAN –573201
PH NO : 08172-240799 FAX: 08172-240640 E-mail Address: hamul77ah@gmail.com

IFT NO.HCMU/P&I/C.I/EPROC/ 1905/2024-25 DATE:19.07.2024

INVITATION FOR E-TENDER (LFT)
TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER

HAMUL invites E-procurement tender for cattle insurance (1) Quantity & EMD amount: as per bid notification available in e-portal. (2) Last date for submission of tender: **22.08.2024,** 05.00 p.m. (3) Technical bid opening: **23.08.2024** at 11.00 a.m onwards. (4) Address for communication: Manager (AH/AI) at the above address. (5) Tender document may be downloaded from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.**

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

QuoteExpress THE ONLY CONSTANT IN THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS CHANGE › MITCHELL KAPOR

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ROOF STRENGTHENING AND RELATED WORKS AT PETRONET LNG LTD, KOCHI

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for **roof strengthening and related works** at Petronet LNG Ltd, Kochi (Kerala). Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetlng.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion.

No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvypu P.O, Kochi-682508, Kerala, India.
Tel: No.- 0484-2757702 / 1
Email : **cnp_kochi@petronetlng.in; shriranga@petronetlng.in**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F-98(5), 98(6), 98(7) & 82(10)/23-24/2646-50 Date: 20.07.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka public procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites bid for the work for **"Providing intermediate towers & replacement of towers to increase vertical clearance of existing 220kV & 66kV lines at various hazardous locations pertaining to TLM sub-division, KPTCL, Rajajinagar in TL&SS Division, SRS Peenya in different packages."** coming under jurisdiction of BMAZ North Circle, Bangalore.

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after **22.07.2024** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ, North Circle, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 31/2024
Dated: 16.07.2024

Item of work

Supply, Installation & Commissioning of High Pressure Jet Coach Cleaning plant in Pit Lines at Bangalore City coaching depot. **(Corrigendum to Tender Ref. No: L8245966, Qty: 02 Sets)**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 24.07.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager/ Bengaluru
PUB/283/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

KOTAK MAHINDRA PRIME LTD.

Registered Office:- 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
Office Address:- 1st Floor 20,Uniworth Plaza, Sankey Road, Palace Guttahalli, Banaglore-560020.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of **Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd. (KMPL)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s)to pay to KMPL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to KMPL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount
Loan Account No's: KLAP-10853 & KLAP-48723 **1. Rumztech Solutions Private Limited,** No.11 11 A Sai Golden Nest, 2nd Floor, Talacauvery Road, Vibhutipura-563037, **2. Khurshid Alam,** Flat No.401, Block-A, Srinidhi Residancy, 364 2, Basavanagar, Bangalore-560037. Mobile No:9663038007, **Also at:** Nikoo Homes, Bhartiya City, Flat No.92605, 26th Floor, Tower-9, Wing-I, Chokkanahalli Village, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560064. **3. Wa

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who is in New Delhi, will meet Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and invite him for a public meeting to celebrate the implementation of the crop loan waiver scheme, in Warangal. The meeting will be held in the third week of August

WILL INITIATE ACTION AGAINST GUILTY: SIDDU

Karnataka CM visits landslide site, interacts with locals, appreciates rescue ops, questions toll on incomplete highways

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Shirur (Uttara Kannada)

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited the landslide area at Shirur on Ankola-Kumta road in Uttara Kannada district. He was at the site for more than an hour, and was taken aback seeing the massive destruction, and interacted with the locals.

It continued to pour during his visit, but that did not deter his spirits.

He listened to people's problems, and directed the officials to provide relief to the needy, and appreciated the NDRF and SDRF rescue teams for their work. "The task of finding those stuck under the rubble is very challenging in the continuous torrential rain," he said.

He was accompanied by party colleagues RV Deshpande, Minister Mankal Vaidya and Karwar-Ankola MLA Satish sail, DC Uttara Kannada Lakshmi Priya and SP Narayan and other local Congress leaders like Gopal Krishna Naik.

Responding to the allegations of unscientific work by IRB, which allegedly led to the incident, Siddarmaiah said that people who are guilty will not be spared.

"We will not protect any guilty. We will initiate action against those responsible, once the rescue operations are completed," the CM added.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inspects rescue operations at the Shirur landslide site, on National Higway 66, on Sunday | EXPRESS

Stating that such a massive landslide never occurred earlier, he pointed out to IRB that they are collecting toll without completing the road.

When questioned about the delay in rescue operations, he said that there is no such delay. Later on, the Chief Minister left for Karwar for a KDP meeting and instructed the officials to submit a damage report as per the NDRF norms so that the state can compensate for the loss of agriculture and horticulture crops.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the meeting at Karwar, questioned the IRB officials, "Why are you collecting toll without completing the National Highway work in the district? The work was supposed to be completed by 2016, but it has not been finished so far. This not only misleads the Union Minister, but also provides incorrect information to the state government. I will write a strong letter to the Union Minister of Highways regarding this," he said.

When asked about the opposition's accusations on the government, he said he will not indulge in mudslinging.

Earlier, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, had arrived and explained how four teams are working to locate missing people, probably trapped under the rubble.

VICTIMS' KIN TO GET ₹5L COMPENSATION

"Several vehicles have gone missing. I have instructed the District Administration and the MLAs to speed up the rescue operations. We have given a sum of Rs 5 lakh to the family of those lost their life in the calamity. We are giving compensation to their family members once they find the body. I have instructed the Navy, the Army and the NDRF to scan the river sides for the missing people and the vehicles," Chief Minister Siddarmaiah said. He also agreed to provide a permanent relief to the victims of water released from Kadra Dam 40 kms from Karwar. He also suggested installing electric poles along the coastal lines and repairing or replacing of electric wires and as and when required.

RAINCOATS FOR MEDIA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah observed the journalists and camerapersons were working amidst the torrential downpour and asked the officials if they had provided raincoats and rubber shoes to all the journalists. The officers appeared confused as they did not expect this question from the Chief Minister.

Godavari rises, red alert across districts in AP

ENS @Rajamahendravaram

AS rains continued to batter the Godavari districts, a high alert has been sounded in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema, Eluru, Alluri Sitarama Raju, East and West Godavari districts on Sunday.

In Kovvur, a 25-year-old man is feared to have drowned in the River Godavari. According to CI Jagadeeswara Rao, the man, identified as Pasupuleti Vamsi Krishna, was to leave for Australia soon for higher studies. A native of Avapadu village in Nallajerla mandal, East Godavari district, Vamsi had gone to Rajahmahendravaram for some work on Friday. When he did not return home, his parents filed a complaint with the Kovvur police on Saturday. During the search, his bike and mobile phone were found near Yerinamma bathing ghat in Kovvur.

Police suspect that Vamsi might have been washed away when he went near the river to attend nature's call. The police launched search operations to trace the body in the river, but could not as it was in spate. Kovvur police have registered a case and a probe is underway.

Inflows to Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in Dowleswaram, Rajahmahendravaram also continued to surge on Sunday. Surplus water was released from the Polavaram project through its spillway at a rate of 8.5 lakh cusecs. The first warning is likely to be issued by Sunday midnight at the barrage, said Superintendent Engineer G Srinivas Rao.

The body of the 14-year-old boy, who tested positive for Nipah virus, being taken to a mortuary, in Kozhikode on Sunday

14-year-old boy dies of Nipah virus in Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Malappuram

A day after testing positive for Nipah, a 14-year-old boy from Kerala's Malappuram district died on Sunday. The boy, who was undergoing treatment in the Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital, suffered a cardiac arrest around 10.50 am on Sunday and doctors could not revive him. "The boy was in an unconscious state. He suffered a cardiac arrest. The doctors tried their level best to save the boy. Unfortunately, he passed away around 11.30 am," said Kerala Health Minister Veena George. The minister said three persons are under isolation at Kozhikode medical college. Kozhikode medical college.

Although the health department received the monoclonal antibodies from the Indian Council of Medical Research on Sunday, the boy died before doctors could administer it. Meanwhile, samples taken from seven persons suspected to have contracted virus tested negative on Kozhikode medical college. Although the health department received the monoclonal antibodies from the Indian Council of Medical Research on Sunday, the boy died before doctors could administer it. Meanwhile, samples taken from seven persons suspected to have contracted virus tested negative on Although the health department received the monoclonal antibodies from the Indian Council of Medical Research on Sunday, the boy died before doctors could administer it.

Meanwhile, samples taken from seven persons suspected to have contracted virus tested negative on Sunday.

Nipah outbreaks have been reported in Kerala since 2018, when 17 people died.

GUIDELINES FOR AMOEBIC DISEASE

Kozhikode: Kerala has released guidelines on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the rare disease amoebic meningoencephalitis. With very little scientific study available, the state decided to prepare comprehensive guidelines based on existing studies. Amoebic meningoencephalitis is now being treated with a combination of five drugs known to be effective against the disease. The disease can be cured in those who start medicines as soon as possible. Medicines should be administered early to reduce the death rate, said a release.

TWO MORE COMPLAINTS OVER MISSING PERSONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They (the Army unit) can track sonar signals and get expected results," Narayan told TNIE.

The Army personnel started work soon after arriving at the spot and they have been divided into two teams to speed up the search operation.

In the meantime, two more complaints have been filed with the Ankola police over missing persons in the landslide and requests to search for them. One is Jagannath Naik, a resident of Shirur, and another is Lokesh Naik, again from Shirur. It is said Lokesh was having tea at the hotel owned by Lakshman Naik at the landslide site when he went missing. Earlier, a complaint was filed by relatives of Arjun, a lorry driver, who is buried under the rubble. The complaint stated that he had stopped for a break near the hotel and he was inside his vehicle when the landslide stuck. The relatives suspect that he could be be alive and said his phone was ringing.

HEALTH SCARE

Senthil Balaji admitted to hospital with chest pain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

JAILED former minister V Senthil Balaji has been admitted to the Omandurar Multi-Speciality Hospital following complaints of a chest pain. Doctors said his condition was stable. Balaji had been lodged at the Puzhal prison following his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a cash-for-jobs scam.

Hospital sources, who confirmed the admission, said that the former minister complained of breathlessness and discomfort and that other tests were underway to ascertain the cause.

"He was shifted from Stanley Hospital for further tests and observation," said a senior doctor. Doctors also said that a multi disciplinary team will decide on further course of treatment.

According to party sources, Senthil has been suffering from digestion problems in Puzhal since Saturday. On Sunday afternoon, after having lunch at Puzhal prison, he vomited and complained of a mild chest pain. Following this, prison doctors attended to him. After an initial diagnosis, he was referred to the government Stanley Hospital from where he is now shifted to the Omandurar Estate Government hospital.

Senior scientists complain of unfairness in promotions at ISRO

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

THERE are loud rumblings of "unfairness and merit taking a backseat" at the country's premier ISRO.

Some senior scientists complained that there is tangible discrimination in extension of service and disparity in promotions. They pointed out that one person, a "close friend" of a top official, was promoted unfairly. They complained of toxic influence of "caste and regional considerations", instead of merit, coming to play in the organisation.

Highly placed sources sent a note to The New Indian Express, putting down their source of disillusionment and despair on paper. They said that as far as discrimination in extension of service is concerned, only two of them M Sankaran of URSC and Padma Kumar of IISU received a two-year extension. Others -- Nilesh M Desai, Dr V Narayanan, Padmakumar, M Mohan of HSFC, A Rajarajan of SDSC, Dr PV Radha Devi of ADRIN and Nigar Shahji, project director, URSC -- got a mere one-year extension.

The note said, "Padmakumar is comparatively junior and not known for significant contribution to ISRO as compared to the others." The service of Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair, present director of VSSC, was extended by two years, they said. The disgruntled scientists asked, "What are the noteworthy contribution made by these scientists that they got a two-year extension, while the others got one year? Are they better than those scientists whose names are mentioned earlier, or is it because they belong to a (particular) caste or linguistic group?"

They specifically pointed to the promotions made in ISRO from January 2022 and at VSSC from January 2018. They alleged that a highly placed official, who is well known in ISRO, "directly intervenes in issues of promotion. Persons from a particular state, to which that senior official belongs, are given preference in promotion."

The note alleged that a particular scientist, who belongs to the senior official's caste and who is his "close friend", was appointed director of an important ISRO project and was being promoted and preferred by a senior key official. They said this "caste and linguistic preferences over merit" could prove costly for ISRO.

ISRO PRO, Deputy Director Mahendra Kumar, when contacted with these allegations, said, "There cannot be any scope for these allegations because there are processes in place and there is not much scope for discretion for any one person. Obviously Everyone cannot become chairman of ISRO. This could be from some disgruntled persons."

VIBRANT, COLOURFUL, JOYOUS!

Artists dress up like Hindu gods perform during the Bonalu procession at Old City in Hyderabad on Sunday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

EXPRESS READ

18 jumbos shortlisted for Dasara festivities

Mysuru: With the Dasara just two months away, foresters have shortlisted 18 camp elephants for the training to participate in the Jamboo Savari procession on the Vijayadashami day. DCF BM Sharanabasappa visited elephant camps in Rampura in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Bheemanakatte, Mathigodu and Doddaharave coming under Nagarahole Tiger Reserve and Dubare. The foresters examined 22 elephants of which 18 were shortlisted. They say that 14 elephants will participate in the procession while four elephants will be kept as reserve.

Dr Neeraj Patil elected to Labour Party's council

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru:

NRI **Dr Neeraj Patil**, consultant in ac.cident and emergency medicine, who hails from Karnataka, has been elected member of the National Executive Council (NEC), the highest decision-making body of the Labour Party which is now in power in the United Kingdom.

Dr Patil will participate in its first meeting to be held on Tuesday. Patil, who was previously mayor of Lambeth, told TNIE on phone from London, "The 39-member policy making body will also have newly-elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Deputy PM Angela Rayner participating. The NEC has many MPs and other important Labour Party members, and its other functions are to maintain voter support, do well in elections and carry out constitutional responsibilities and set strategic direction."

He said he had worked extensively for the party in the recently held parliamentary election which the Labour Party won, especially among voters of Indian origin. There are close to 17 lakh voters of Indian origin, mostly Hindus, and Dr Patil and other Indian-origin voters had reached out to them. The UK has a population of about 65 million, which is almost the total population of Karnataka.

On this elevation, Dr Patil said, "I never expected I would be chosen for this honour." Neeraj Patil's family is not new to politics, his father and uncle were MLAs in Karnataka. "Dr Patil recalled that it was tough visiting homes of Indian-origin voters and getting them to support Labour. Many supported the conservatives because of former PM Rishi Sunak. Recalling the hectic six weeks of campaigning and canvassing, Patil said he was glad their effort paid off and Labour won 'chaar sau paar' -- 412 seats as opposed to 121 for Conservatives.

Migrant worker lives in kennel for 3 months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

A migrant labourer of Murshidabad, West Bengal, was found living in a kennel (dog house) in Piravom, an area within the metropolitan city, for more than three months.

Despite paying a rent of Rs 500 per month, to the landlord Shyam Sundar was forced to live in a kennel.

The police visited the site after the locals revealed the condition of the tiny room, which included a gas stove, bed, and seating, and had a grill door covered with cardboard to protect from rain and cold.

Amidst community outrage, the police and municipal authorities initially began an investigation into the incident but later discontinued it due to the lack of a complaint from the labourer. The authorities stated that the laborer chose to live there voluntarily and had no grievances. "He had previously stayed in several other places but couldn't afford the rent. That's why he chose the kennel, paying a rent of Rs 500 per month," said an official. In his circumstances, it might be a relatively comfortable condition for him, said the labourer.

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IDFC FIRST Bank

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 28th August 2024 as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i).

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

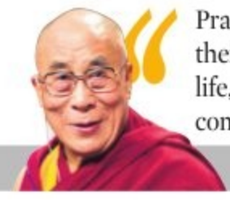
S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(ii) Agreement ID	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time of EMD Auction	(ix) Date and Time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 4501940.37/- Demand Notice dated: 17-Sep-2019	21311007	Mr. Nakkul	All the piece and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. 09, 2nd Floor, Pavan Apartment, measuring 830 sq. fts., constructed on Property bearing Old Site No. 31 & 32, formed in Sy. No. 15/1, Avalahalli Village, Uttarahali Hobli, Bangalore South taluk, presently at 1st 'D' Main Road, 2nd Phase, Girinagar, Bangalore – 560078 Bounded:- North: Road, South: Writers Colony (V.B.H.S.), East: Property No. 30 & West: Property No. 33	INR 8144000.00/-	INR 814400.00/-	28-Aug-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	27-Aug-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	20-Aug-2024 10:00 AM To 4:00 PM	Name- Neha Rao Contact Number- 9620788891 Name- Jacob Palayoor Lazar Contact Number- 8971675091

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)

Date: 22.07.2024

EDITORIAL



"Practising compassion, caring for others and sharing their problems, lays the foundation for a meaningful life, not only at the level of the individual, family or community, but also for humanity as a whole"

Dalai Lama

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TALL ORDER FOR HASINA TO REGAIN PEOPLE'S TRUST IN BANGLADESH

WHEN the judiciary rushes in where angels fear to tread, dire consequences follow. Like the Manipur high court's thoughtless order last year to consider granting ST status to the majority Meiteis. It ignited a violent showdown that resulted in the killing of hundreds of people, leaving thousands homeless and tearing apart the state's social fabric. Those wounds are yet to heal. Another mindless high court bench, this time in Bangladesh, dragged the nation into a quota quicksand by quashing a 2018 order that nullified 30% reservation in government jobs for the relatives of veterans of the 1971 freedom struggle. While the Supreme Court suspended the order and fixed the next date of hearing for August 7, angry students hit the streets. Police firing followed, resulting in needless loss of lives, fuelling the fire. PM Sheikh Hasina's crass comment, likening the protesters to razakars, further messed up the situation. Razakar is a pejorative for those who fought alongside Pakistan in the independence movement. Curfew was clamped, police got shoot-at-sight orders and the army patrolled the streets after the death toll crossed 100. Had the judiciary's wise men been more circumspect, Manipur and Bangladesh would not have burnt.

Bangladesh's SC has since advanced its hearing, slashed the quota for freedom fighters to 5 percent and swung to the other end of the pendulum by enhancing the volume of merit seats from 44 percent to a whopping 93 percent. That space for affirmative action to help the downtrodden in the society. Whether or not there would be a counter agitation remains to be seen.

If the usual suspects are alleged to have fanned the flames in Manipur, the ruling Awami League blames the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and other radical elements for stoking the stir that began as a peaceful student protest. Hasina losing political capital is bad news for India as it gives room for forces inimical to the country to exploit the situation. It could have a spillover effect across the border. India wisely eschewed its comment, calling it an internal affair. Going forward, Hasina has to quickly regain people's trust by setting up an impartial panel to probe the violence, address the scourge of jobless growth and go after the radical elements to restore stability.

KERALA TRAGEDY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

A 47-year-old sanitation worker, Joy, tragically lost his life in Kerala's capital city as he got stuck in a filth-filled canal while trying to clean it up. He was part of a group of casual sanitation workers deployed by a private agency, roped in by the Railways to clean the stretch that flows under the station. Though teams of NDRF, fire and rescue, and police conducted a massive search in the 140-metre tunnel and adjoining areas for two days, they could not make any headway due to the huge pile of garbage accumulated. The body was finally recovered on July 15, 46 hours after he went on Saturday.

While rescue workers struggled to find the missing person, the state witnessed a dirty blame game between the city corporation and Railway authorities. Instead of focusing on the rescue mission, Trivandrum Corporation and Railway officials chose to fight over whose responsibility it was to clean the canal. Experts, however, feel the state government cannot pass the buck as it could have invoked the provisions of the Disaster Management Act (DMA) if the Railways was neglecting its waste management responsibilities. The Kerala High Court, meanwhile, expressed shock at the death and asked the corporation to ensure plastic waste is not dumped in water bodies and told the railways that removal of waste clogged in tunnels and canal stretches within their jurisdiction is their responsibility.

The incident has brought into focus the dangers faced by sanitation workers and the need for better safety measures. The authorities still have no answers as to why the workers were deployed without basic safety measures during heavy rains. While the local bodies department washed its hands, saying Joy was part of a team hired by the Railways, the latter said ensuring workers' safety is the private contractor's responsibility. The lackadaisical approach shows authorities don't care about the safety of workers who play a major role in maintaining public health. Sanitation workers are forced to do their job in hazardous environments without proper equipment. Their health, safety and dignity is as important as anybody else's.

Joy's death could have been avoided if everybody did what they were supposed to do. From the citizens who throw plastic waste into the canal to the city corporation that allowed garbage to get piled up and the Railways that ignored its responsibility to clean up the tunnels in their property, everybody is responsible for this death. Such a tragedy should not happen ever again, and it is the responsibility of all concerned to see to it.

QUICK TAKE

CARE IN CRITICAL MINING

IN late June, India awarded six critical and strategic mineral blocks for mining to private players for the first time. More blocks are being offered in subsequent auctions. Minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, phosphorite, manganese and cobalt are important for transition to green technologies. Not surprisingly, their global demand are shooting up. India, which mostly relies on imports, can save foreign exchange and gain strategic assurance by mining more at home. But some mining processes produce hazardous pollutants and need an inordinate amount of energy and water. We hope the government will ensure local ecologies are not destroyed for future gains.

Bangladesh is trying to balance its ties with India and China. Its PM's truncated Beijing trip may have resulted from strategic differences abroad as much as troubles at home

COLDNESS IN BEIJING, HOT MESS IN DHAKA

PINAK RANJAN CHAKRAVARTY

Former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Visiting Fellow at ORF and a founding Director of DeepStrat, a think tank

BANGLADESH PM Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to China has been described as a classic act of balancing ties with India and other major powers. Hasina visited Delhi twice in June this year. The visit to Beijing soon after signals Bangladesh's resolve to pursue its interests with both China and India. But Hasina's Beijing trip was abruptly cut short, allegedly due to the ill health of her daughter; it is unclear if this was also because of some disagreement with China or the fierce job quota agitation back home.

China and India are Bangladesh's biggest economic partners. By wooing Bangladesh, China seeks to expand its influence in the subcontinent to counter India's influence. China's maximum investment has been in Pakistan, where the two nations have found policy congruence to constrain India's options while building infrastructure and investing in a strategic port like Gwadar. This port on the Makran coast, not far from Chabahar in Iran, is gradually being expanded to include an industrial zone and a naval base for China.

Hasina's Beijing visit focused on bolstering bilateral economic ties. She met President Xi Jinping briefly, but her main interlocutor was PM Li Qiang. The two witnessed the signing of 28 agreements, mainly on trade and investment. It was decided to expedite the 'Joint Feasibility Study on China-Bangladesh Free Trade Agreement' and commence negotiation on the 'Optimisation of China-Bangladesh Bilateral Investment Treaty'.

The chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Wang Huning, and Hasina released a joint statement claiming "extensive consensus" on regional and international issues. The two sides agreed to abide by the Panchsheel principles, which has made a return in Chinese diplo-speak after decades, signalling some nuancing in China's diplomacy in the region.

Bangladesh needs funds for infrastructure, energy and better technologies for its growing economy. It has signed up to China's Belt and Road Initiative, like all other neighbours of India except Bhutan. The two sides have announced bilateral ties raised to "a comprehensive strategic-cooperative partnership" from a "strategic partnership". This could mean cooperation in long-term projects across new sectors.

China's BRI investment in Bangladesh has not matched up to a grandiose announcement of $40 billion. From 2009 to 2019, it was around $9 billion in transport, infrastructure and energy. Hasina has sought more investment at a time when Bangladesh's economy is under stress from higher energy and food prices. It has seen a significant erosion in forex reserves to $20 billion from a high of around $45 billion.

SOURAV ROY

Bangladesh hopes to get Chinese help in the defence sector and funding for building ports, railways, power plants and bridges. But there is no free lunch in geopolitics and China will demand strategic favours from Bangladesh, which may impinge on India's security. China already has an overwhelming influence on Bangladesh's armed forces, which depend on Chinese military hardware to the extent of around 75 percent.

BRI projects can succeed if the loan terms match up to sustainable financing norms. Bangladesh is second on the list of countries in terms of BRI funding. While Pakistan is floundering economically, Bangladesh has been more prudent while accepting Chinese loans. Bangladesh's debt to nominal GDP ratio is a manageable 23 percent. It has spread its debt between China, Japan, India and Russia and is the least likely to fall into a debt trap.

The Rohingya refugees is the main geopolitical issue on which Hasina sought China's support. Undeniably the Rohingya refugees, numbering over a million, are a huge economic burden, mitigated to an extent by assistance by several countries including India and China. The domestic situation in Myanmar has deteriorated sharply, with the junta rapidly losing ground to rebels. China earlier brokered an unsuccessful agreement for the return of Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh for over 6 years. China may have promised help because it gets leverage but it is unlikely to convince the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) that has lost control of almost half the country to the rebels.

While Hasina was in China, a composite Bangladesh delegation was in India to explore transhipment possibilities of cargo from and to Bangladesh using Indian ports at Chennai, Krishnapatnam, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata and Haldia.

Meanwhile, media reports suggested Hasina's request for a one-to-one meeting with Xi did not materialise. Nor did Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi call on her as expected. Bangladesh's request for $5 billion in direct assistance was not accepted and only around $130 million was promised. This could be due to China's decision to downsize commitments, as a result of its own economic slowdown.

Dhaka's economic worries became global news with the current students' agitation against quotas for government jobs for the progeny of freedom fighters, minorities and tribal communities. This agitation has claimed more than a hundred lives in clashes between the police and the Chhatra League, the students' wing of the ruling Awami League. The agitators set fire to the state television building. All educational institutions have been shut. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has advised Indian citizens to stay indoors.

Hasina's caustic comments on 'razakars', a deeply pejorative word in the country used for traitors who collaborated with the Pakistani army in 1971, fuelled anger among students who felt insulted. As the agitation spread, internet access was blocked. The army and border guards are on high alert. Sporadic calls for Hasina to step down indicate that the political opposition, comprising the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Islamists, have infiltrated the student protestors. There are no prizes for guessing that foreign powers who do not like Hasina are also fuelling the agitation.

Agitators claim the quota system has denied government jobs to meritorious candidates and has been abused to favour people supportive of the ruling party. There is some merit in this argument. It is prevalent in India and some other countries as well.

As the global order changes, strategic balancing will become more challenging, given the country's geopolitical situation and domestic politics. Bangladesh can be expected to maintain its foreign policy of neutrality, focus on ways to boost its economy and balance its strategic interests with all major powers. But the current domestic agitation, if not curbed quickly, may spiral out of control.

(Views are personal)

FOCUSING ON THE GOOD INSIDE ALL OF US

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THERE is good in us all, despite ourselves, as tales about the nature of God-love inform us. For one, there is no dearth of stories with immense spiritual and social value in the Bible. I particularly like the episode in the New Testament, Matthew 22:35-40, in which a lawyer asks Jesus, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus tells him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." These statements, the first of which echoes the Old Testament, are known as two great commandments of Christianity.

They were uttered during Jesus's third visit to the Jewish temple, Jesus himself being a Jew. This episode also contains other important points that Jesus made, such as paying taxes ungrudgingly to the state: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," as also the touching instance of the poor widow who offered God all he had out of love. This is described in the New Testament in Mark 12: 41–44. Jesus was at the temple with his disciples. He sat across from the temple treasury and watched many rich people put in large sums. Then he saw something he used to teach the disciples about giving.

A poor widow came and put in two copper coins. Jesus taught that she gave more than the rich, for she gave all that she had, whereas the rich had a lot of money to spare and their donations did not pinch.

I am also very fond of this Indian parable that upholds the sentiment of being focused on God with everything you've got. The story goes that a thief in South India happened to pass by a temple where a crowd had gathered to hear a spiritual discourse by a well-known *pauranikar* or teller of religious stories.

Seeing all those festively turned-out people, the thief hoped to steal something and quietly found himself a place in the throng. As he waited, he heard the *pauranikar* lovingly describe Sri Krishna's earrings, armbands and necklace of precious gems. The thief, who had grown up neglected and never gone to a temple, was awestruck. He thought Krishna was a person nearby and yearned to steal his jewellery.

He asked people, "Where does Krishna live?" They told him to ask the *pauranikar*. The thief waited until the discourse ended and the *pauranikar* emerged.

"Where does Krishna live?" asked the thief. "You can't see him," laughed the *pauranikar*. "You'd better tell me!" said the thief menacingly. "Go north to a place called Vrindavan, you'll find him there," said the *pauranikar*, looking to escape.

PTI

> In Adi Shankara's words, you have the tripod meant to support the human experience: faith, love and charity. The bit about charity is the strongest spiritual leitmotif across stories. However, in today's world, 'charity' has come to have patronising overtones

The thief made his way with great difficulty, obsessed with finding Krishna. He thought of Krishna every step of the way to Vrindavan, where they nodded understandingly and sent him to the woods. And suddenly, he encountered Krishna looking just as the *pauranikar* had described.

Krishna spoke kindly to him and even gave him some jewellery. The delighted thief made his way back and sought out the *pauranikar* to tell him of his success.

He was shocked. "Lord, I've spent my life speaking about you," he wept. "Why have you never favoured me with a glimpse?"

But he knew why. The thief, though intent on thieving, had thought of nothing but God, which had cleansed his heart.

How may we apply this God-focus in our daily lives? Giving as an essential of the spiritual life code is affirmed in the famous hymn '*Bhaja Govindam*' by Adi Shankara, which says: *Geyam gita nama sahasram dheyam sripati rupamajasram / neyam sajjana sange chittam deyam deena jananya cha vittam* (Recite the *Bhagavad Gita*, chant the *Vishnu Sahasranamam*, meditate on Vishnu in your heart and mind/ Seek delight in the company of the good, share your wealth with the poor).

In fact, Shankara urges us to give all our money to the poor, which possibly made him the original 'left' philosopher long before a certain old man with a beard came to be in 19th-century Germany.

And there you have the tripod meant to support the human experience: faith, love and charity. The bit about charity is the strongest spiritual leitmotif across stories. However, in today's world, 'charity' has come to have patronising overtones. 'Charity' may confer some material ease but may simultaneously diminish the receiver's human dignity. What could be the solution? As the English metaphysical poet John Donne said: 'I have done one braver thing/ Than all the Worthies did/ And yet a braver thence doth spring/ Which is, to keep that hid.' I daresay this approach contravenes the purpose of CSR initiatives. But while companies may toot their horns at the taxman, we as individuals can easily practise silent charity.

Besides being liberal at festival times, often in the hope of piling up bonus karma, we could give gracefully on other occasions. That means giving in a manner that is humble, not boastful or arrogant. Give as if making an offering to God, literally; hold our hands low and outstretched, as we would before an altar. I have seen people do this. This poignant interaction happens so quietly that it's over in a blink. It lights up faces and elicits a heartfelt smile and a real *dua* or prayerful blessing. One must never undervalue the power of *dua* in a tight karmic situation. This point seems to be the core teaching of all religions, and any time is a good time to remember it.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Free education

Ref: *Hand rocking the cradle can change India* (Jul 21). In a country where womanhood is celebrated, prolonged suffering due to societal, familial or biological reasons need to be augmented early on. Maternity leaves and other small leverages are akin to "too little, too late". Free education to all girls up to graduation may be a good start.

Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur

Women's strength

The author has presented a perfect portrait of the plight of working women—more work, less salary, balancing household and office obligations, and less respect in the workplace. Despite all these shortcomings, *nari shakthi* is proving its excellence in every walk of life.

G Nataraja Perumal, Belagavi

Trusted bureaucrats

Ref: *Modi chooses continuity over change* (Jul 21). It is hardly surprising that PM Narendra Modi has not chosen to shuffle his team of bureaucrats after being re-elected, as they or the advisors were not responsible for the lacklustre performance of the NDA in the elections. In the decade that he has been in power, the PM has revealed a tendency to place his trust on chosen bureaucrats.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Agniveer training

The opposition's statements against the Agnipath scheme seems logical. Agniveer soldiers get just six months' training, and are like sitting ducks against the professional soldiers of Chinese and Pakistani armies. Even Islamic terrorists and Maoists are well-equipped with modern weapons and have combat training.

Sreeram Parasaran, Puttaparthi

Controlling infection

A 14-year-old boy from Kerala's Malappuram district has tested positive for Nipah. It is a fact that the dreaded viral infection is endemic in Kerala. People need to learn to live with it, without throwing caution to the wind. Healthcare authorities must observe standard operating procedures evolved from past experience in controlling the infection.

George Jacob, Kochi

Hypocritical words

Home Minister Amit Shah calling opposition leader Rahul Gandhi arrogant and dynastic is a joke as Rahul walked miles from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, meeting common people, while Amit Shah's son Jay Shah was sat on the hot seat of the BCCI. The citizens are now sick of listening to mandir-masjid and Hindu-Muslim discourses as though there are no other issues of public concern.

T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 60, No. 174 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
During Sharad Pawar's government, Maratha reservation in Maharashtra remained an issue that played with sentiments of the community.

Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19
Maharashtra knows who's the arrogant, dhongi Hindu. They showed that in the LS polls & are now waiting to give the final blow to Mahajhoothi Alliance.

Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri
Some of my earlier acquaintances with confused left liberal leanings used to be deeply influenced by a little red book, which none of them read or understood but always carried in their pockets.

BJP govt at Centre won't last long, say Mamata & Akhilesh

Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav at TMC's Martyrs' Day rally in Kolkata | PTI

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @Kolkata

MAMATA Banerjee was all fire and brimstone and so was Akhilesh Yadav, the Samajwadi Party chief. The mega rally in Kolkata on Sunday saw both Mamata and Akhilesh predicting the fall of the BJP-led government at the Centre, claiming it was formed through "intimidation and threats."

The significance of the day lay in two most significant members of the INDIA bloc coming together post-Lok Sabha poll results in which their principal rival BJP stood stripped of its primacy. The shrillness of their challenge also ensured the voices reached the ruling NDA allies a day ahead of the Budget session of Parliament.

The occasion: The Trinamool Congress' annual Shaheed Dibas (Martyrs' Day) marking the anniversary of the death of 13 Congress workers in police firing in 1993 and later in 1998 when the TMC was formed to consolidate anti-CPM forces and claim the legacy of such space.

"Yeh sarkar kuch din ki mehman hai. Yeh Dilli ki sarkar chalne wali nahi, girne wali hai (this government will be short-lived. The government in Delhi won't work, it will collapse)," said Akhilesh who shared the dais with Mamata and her nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

Vowing to oust the "morally defeated BJP," Mamata said, "We'll see them (BJP) in Parliament." She praised Akhilesh for his party's performance in the Lok Sabha polls in UP.

NDA allies prepare plan to counter Oppn onslaught

Govt to expose 'inaccuracies, citing Rahul's misleading remarks'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

WITH the Budget session starting from Monday, the BJP-led NDA is all prepared to take on a united Opposition set to corner the government in Parliament on issues ranging from the NEET paper leak case to railway safety, sources said.

As the Opposition is expected to challenge the government's fiscal policies and budget proposals, the NDA allies have also been prepared to launch a counter with well-researched facts and figures.

Sources within the NDA revealed that the coalition partners are prepared to address any issue the Opposition may raise, in order to demonstrate that their disruptions are politically motivated rather than based on substantive concerns.

"The strategy will include exposing inaccuracies in Opposition claims, citing Rahul Gandhi's misleading statements on the Agniveer scheme as a prime example," A BJP MP said, wishing not to be named.

The NDA plans to confront the Opposition on several anticipated issues, including NEET, unemployment and inflation, aiming to defend the Union Budget and illustrate its benefits for the public. "We will respond to critiques on inflation and employment with concrete data and facts during the session," said the BJP MP.

Additionally, the NDA is prepared to highlight the positive outcomes of government policies, such as the significant reduction in railway accidents since 2014, in response to any related criticisms from the Opposition, he said.

A senior NDA leader from South India confirmed that the coalition is ready to present data demonstrating improvements in railway safety. "We are overall prepared with an approach focusing on a fact-based defence of the Union Budget and a proactive strategy to address Opposition challenges effectively," said an NDA leader.

The NDA leaders will also highlight performances of all ministries during the session in a bid to counter the Opposition in the Houses. Citing the action taken on the NEET issue, a senior BJP leader said, "The alleged irregularities are being investigated by CBI and outcomes prove the strong stand of government against any such anomalies."

The session will have 19 sittings till August 12 when the government is expected to present six bills and also get Parliament's nod for the budget of Jammu and Kashmir.

RS to consider private bill on free internet

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE NDA government has cleared the consideration of a private member's bill that seeks to grant every citizen the right to free internet access while ensuring equal access to people from backward and remote regions of the country.

"No citizen shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges that may prevent him or her from accessing internet facilities," the bill has proposed.

It was introduced in the Rajya Sabha by CPM member V Sivadasan in December 2023. According to a bulletin issued by the Upper House, telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has communicated to the Rajya Sabha secretary-general that the President has recommended the consideration of the bill to the House.

As the rule stands, the private members' bills involving expenditure from the exchequer require the President's permission through the ministry concerned on whether such bills can be considered by the House.

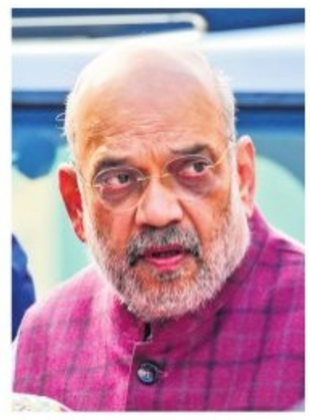
POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

BJP-BJD Detente

NAVEEN WANTS BJP TO SPURN PANDIAN OVERTURES

Biju Janata Dal chief Naveen Patnaik's bureaucrat-turned-politician former aide V K Pandian is at the centre of discussion between old allies BJP and BJD. According to sources, the BJP has reached out to Naveen Patnaik for his party's support in Parliament and in the upcoming elections for President and Vice-President of India. The NDA has gone below the majority mark in the Rajya Sabha and it needs the support of BJD's nine members to pass bills. The BJD also has 51 members in the Odisha legislative assembly, whose support the ruling alliance wants in the election for the next President and Vice-President. Sources said Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Patnaik last week. Patnaik told Shah that he would support NDA in the Rajya Sabha and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections if the BJP promised not to entertain Pandian. The former confidant of the BJD chief has been trying to get an appointment with Shah through an important Cabinet minister who holds multiple portfolios. Pandian has visited Delhi several times over the last few weeks but has not been able to meet Shah. He has conveyed to the BJP leadership that he could split the BJD and help the BJP grow in Odisha. The BJP won a majority of seats in the recent assembly elections, but the BJD won more votes. Pandian has offered to help the BJP improve its support base in the state. The BJP leadership, however, appears to have decided to side with Patnaik and not entertain Pandian for now.



Target UP

PRIYANKA'S TEA DIPLOMACY FOR SP-CONG TIES

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra organised a meeting last week between Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and her brother Rahul Gandhi at her Sujan Singh Park residence in Lutyens Delhi. The SP and Congress bested the BJP in Uttar Pradesh in the recent Lok Sabha elections, but Rahul and Akhilesh do not share a close relationship. Sources said that this gap is sought to be exploited by vested interests. They pointed to the battle that has broken out between the lower rung leaders of the Congress and the SP over credit for the alliance's impressive performance in UP. The two parties have decided to jointly contest the upcoming assembly byelections and fight the 2027 assembly elections together. Sources said Priyanka feels that for the longevity of the alliance, the two parties need to overcome their misgivings and the two leaders need to forge a close personal bond. She, therefore, invited Akhilesh, his wife Dimple and Rahul Gandhi for tea at her residence to kickstart this process. She told Akhilesh that the two parties have a natural chemistry and the two leaders need to have more discussions and better understanding. Akhilesh agreed with Priyanka and said the Congress needs to be more transparent with him and not take decisions regarding UP unilaterally. The Gandhi siblings agreed to communicate better with the SP. Rahul offered to establish a permanent channel of communication between a general secretary of Congress and a leader of Akhilesh's party. But Akhilesh said all important decisions should be discussed only among the four present in the room.

'They beat him up, but he convinced them,' how a Bangla man drove 15 Indians to safety

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

A YOUNG Bangladeshi risked his life to help 15 Indian medical students get out of the country amid the violent protests against reservation there.

Hassan Rahman (name changed) not only arranged an ambulance for the Indian students but also accompanied them to the Dhaka airport.

The Indian students, including five from Assam, are from the Delta Medical College and Hospital affiliated to Dhaka University. Abbas Ali, a 20-year-old Assamese who had joined the college on June 28, recounted the horror in Bangladesh.

"As the violence was raging, we were stuck in the college hostel. We, the five Assamese, discussed how we could get out of the country. The seniormost among us said we will be able to fly out if his friend Hassan helps. And Hassan did," Abbas told this newspaper over the phone on Sunday from his Sivasagar residence.

He said the Indian students had their flight at 5 pm of July 19 but to ensure their safety, Hassan took them out of the hostel at 8 pm of July 18 in an ambulance. "Hassan first took us to a private hospital and arranged food for us. At around 3 am, he said we must set out for the airport. On the way, our ambulance was intercepted by the protestors. They asked the driver about the occupants and he lied by saying he was ferrying patients," Abbas said.

At around 3 am, he said we must set out for the airport. On the way, our ambulance was intercepted by the protestors. They asked the driver about the occupants and he lied by saying he was ferrying patients

Abbas Ali, Student

"When they discovered us, they beat up the driver. They also attacked the vehicle and tried to set it ablaze. We all were frightened but Hassan somehow managed to convince them and save our lives," he added.

Abbas said the protestors had already torched a vehicle just a few metres away and the Indian students saw bodies lay strewn on the road.

"We took a detour to reach the airport. After spending 18 hours at the airport, we flew out of the country and landed in Kolkata," he said, adding, "While in Bangladesh, we could not contact our families as phone and internet services were suspended".

Abbas had sensed the impending trouble when one day, the college suddenly declared a half-day holiday. Later, some Bangladeshi students asked the Indians to be careful as there was a possibility of the protests turning violent.

"For over a fortnight, I faced no problem. Then, all hell broke loose. I just pray that peace returns to Bangladesh early," Abbas concluded.

BJP fumes as Didi says Bengal's doors open for Bangladeshis in distress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

THE violence in the neighbouring Bangladesh led West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Benerjee to emphasize that the state was ready to welcome all Bangladeshi refugees who would flee the country in view of the violence and bloodshed. The BJP, however, fumed saying "immigration and citizenship" are exclusively in the Centre's domain.

"Whatever is happening in Bangladesh is their internal matter and we as a state cannot comment on this. But according to UN guidelines, we will welcome all refugees who will be dislodged from their home and hearth in Bangladesh and seek refuge in our state," she said at her party's rally on Martyrs' Day. She also asked the people of Bengal not to get into any provocation about the ongoing violence that may trigger tension in West Bengal.

BJP co-in-charge for West Bengal Amit Malviya termed her statement as an "evil plan" of the INDIA bloc to settle illegal immigrants from the neighbouring country to Jharkhand and elsewhere to win polls.

"On odd days, she says she will not allow Hindu refugees, who came to India to escape religious persecution, to apply for citizenship under CAA. On even days, she welcomes Bangladeshis to India," Malviya said, alleging that "If they insist, she will ask illegal Rohingyas, who vote for the TMC, to burn trains, block roads and kill people."

BSF troops along eastern frontier on high alert

The Border Security Force on Sunday said that its troops deployed along the eastern frontier are on "high alert" in view of the violence in Bangladesh, even as they facilitated the return of nearly 380 students from the country facing internal strife.

Artefacts' return reflects global liberalism: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that India's heritage is not merely history but also science. Emphasizing India's effort to be a partner in global welfare, Modi mentioned the global embrace of Yoga and Ayurveda as the country's scientific heritage.

India's heritage is witness to the journey of top-notch engineering, he said, mentioning the 8th century Kedarnath temple situated at an altitude of 3,500 metres, which remains a challenging place for infrastructure development even today due to incessant snowfall during winter.

The PM also touched upon Brihadeeswara temple built by Raja Chola in South of India and its marvelous architectural layout and idol.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi.

The World Heritage Committee meets annually and is responsible for managing all matters on world heritage and deciding on sites to be inscribed on the world heritage list. India is hosting the World Heritage Committee meeting for the first time this year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the 46th Session of World Heritage Committee, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

Modi also mentioned Dholavira and Lothal in Gujarat. Dholavira is famed for its urban planning and water management systems as ancient as 3000-1500 BC. Similarly, Lothal had amazing planning for the citadel and lower planning and an elaborate network of streets and drainage.

"India's history and sense of history are older and more elaborate than the normal, leading to the need for new perspectives to witness the past with technological developments and new discoveries," Modi said.

He mentioned the findings of Sinauli in Uttar Pradesh, where copper age findings are closer to Vedic Age rather than the Indus Valley Civilisation, and talked about the discovery of a 4000-year-old horse-driven chariot. Such discoveries stress that in order to know India, there is a need for new, prejudice-free concepts, the PM said, inviting the gathering to be part of this new stream.

Underlining the significance of heritage, he said, "Heritage is not only history. Rather, a shared consciousness of humanity. Whenever we look at historical sites, it lifts our mind from the current geopolitical factors."

He encouraged people to use this potential of heritage for the betterment of the world, using them to connect hearts. "It is India's clarion call to the world to come together to promote each others' heritage and amplify the spirit of human welfare, encourage tourism and create more job opportunities through the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting," Modi added.

Recalling a time when heritage was ignored in the pursuit of development, the Prime Minister said today, India's vision is development as well as heritage- Vikas bhi Virasat bhi. Elaborating on the pride in heritage pledge during the last 10 years, the PM mentioned unprecedented steps such as Kashi Viswanath Corridor, Shri Ram Mandir, Modern Campus of ancient Nalanda University. "This resolve of India regarding heritage is linked with the feeling of serving the entire humanity. Indian culture talks about us, not just about self," he added.

Referring to the artefacts brought back from abroad, Modi informed that more than 350 heritage items have returned in recent times.

Coast Guard evacuates critically ill man off Gujarat coast amid adverse weather

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THE Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel on Sunday carried out a life-saving evacuation operation off the coast of Gujarat. In another operation, the ICG has mobilised more assets to augment firefighting efforts onboard the container vessel Maersk Frankfurt.

"The ICG successfully evacuated a critically ill patient from the Motor Tanker Zeal, flagged under the Gabon Republic, located off the Mangrol coast in Gujarat," said the ICG.

The patient, an Indian national crew member, was experiencing low pulse and lower body numbness, necessitating quick medical evacuation.

The operation was launched at first light on Sunday, with an Advanced Light Helicopter dispatched from Coast Guard Air Enclave in Porbandar. The mission was carried out amidst severe weather conditions, showcasing the exceptional skill and bravery of the ICG personnel.

Despite high-intensity winds and heavy rainfall, the ICG helicopter crew expertly navigated to the Motor Tanker Zeal, which was positioned around 20 km from Porbandar. The helicopter positioned itself precisely over the Motor Tanker, allowing the successful deployment of a rescue basket. The patient was safely evacuated and transported to Porbandar for further medical care.

"This successful evacuation underscores the Indian Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to maritime safety and its readiness to respond to emergencies even under the most adverse conditions," said the ICG in a statement.

Updating on firefighting efforts onboard the merchant vessel Maersk Frankfurt, which is currently 35 nautical miles southwest of Mangalore, the ICG on Sunday said, "Although the fire has reduced in scale, heavy smoke persists, obscuring the flames. The fire has extended to the starboard side of the vessel, particularly affecting lower stacked containers." The firefighting operation was still on on Sunday night.

The coast guard evacuates a critically ill Indian national from a Motor Tanker Zeal off Gujarat Coast on Sunday | PTI

PROTEST PROBE

One person was arrested after two women, protesting against road construction, were partially buried when cement was tipped over from a truck in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, police said on Sunday.

3 KIDS DRWON IN AN OPEN WELL IN MP

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

● Forces told to go after militants in hilly areas covering 10 Jammu districts ● Pak persists with 'bleeding India with thousand cuts'

'Operation All Out' in J&K: Additional troops deployed

About 50-60 Pakistani militants are operating in Jammu but have split into groups of 2-3 across the forest areas of the region here. They are engaged in hit and run attacks

Sources

Over 3k personnel

Over 3,500 security personnel, including 500 elite para commandos, would be deployed especially in border districts to tighten the siege and not give any escaping space to the militants

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE security agencies would soon be launching "Operation All Out" in Jammu to tackle militancy in the region, which has emerged as a new militant hotspot in the last few years.

A security official said that the "Operation All Out" would be launched in the Jammu region, which has 10 districts. It would be on the lines of the Kashmir operation, where security forces launched "Operation All Out" against militancy in 2017 following a surge in militant violence post killing of Hizb commander Burhan Wani in an encounter on July 8, 2016.

On Saturday, Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security situation of J&K at a high-level security meeting in Jammu during which he directed for going all out against militants in hilly areas and other places of Jammu region, eliminating infiltration and going after militant support base especially Over Ground Workers (OGWs) to tackle militants.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha have also chaired security review meetings and given directions to security officials to go all-out and eliminate militancy.

Over 3,500 security personnel, including 500 elite para commandos, would be deployed especially in border districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua and Doda, Udhampur and Reasi districts to tighten the siege and not give any escaping space to the militants.

Sources said about 50-60 Pakistani militants, who are well trained and well armed, are operating in the Jammu region and have been involved in the attacks and militancy violence in the past few years.

They said what is concerning security agencies is that militants are not located at a single place but have split into groups of 2-3 across the forest areas of Jammu region, where they are engaged in hit and run attacks on security forces. About 50 security men, mostly Army personnel, are among 80 people killed in militancy violence in Jammu in over two-and-a-half years. Initially confined to border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, militancy has now gripped others districts too.

Don't be complacent, scale up security grid: Military experts

We get complacent. It was during General Zia-ul-Haq's time that the K2 (Kashmir and Khalistan) desk was established and it continues to exist

Major General Sudhakar Jee (Retd)

Rising death toll

With the killing of four Army personnel on July 15 in a gunfight with terrorists in Doda district, the death toll of the security personnel in Jammu this year has gone up to 13. Thirty-four soldiers have died since 2021

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

COMPLACENCY of the Indian security establishment, the armed forces and intelligence agencies has led to increased terrorist threats in the Jammu region, experts believe.

Pakistan's deep state never wavered from its goal of fomenting disturbance and violence as part of "bleed India with a thousand cuts", they added. The incremental deaths of the security personnel in the Jammu region of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has led to multiple rounds of high-level meeting, including by the Home Minister Amit Shah and the Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi visiting the region twice within a month to take stock of the security situation.

The death toll of the security personnel in Jammu region this year has gone up to 13 after four Army personnel, including a captain, were killed on July 15 in a gunfight with heavily armed terrorists in Doda district. In comparison, threeterrorists have been neutralised in Jammu. Since 2021, as many as 34 soldiershave been martyred, while 40 terrorists were killed in the same period.

Cautioning towards the Pakistan's long term goals related to Jammu and Kashmir Major General Sudhakar Jee (Retd), security analyst, said Pakistan never digressed from its strategy of 'bleeding India with a thousand cuts' and they don't lose a chance as their long term goal is to wrest the whole of Jammu and Kashmir."

"We get complacent," said General Sudhakar, adding, "It was during General Zia-ul-Haq's time that the K2 (Kashmir and Khalistan) desk was established and it continues to exist."

Intelligence is the biggest casualty, agreed the security analysts. Major General Ajay Seth (Retd) said the enemy studies everything and the disturbing of the Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terror grid in the region was keenly watched as confirmed by the operational successes of the terrorists. "Pakistan has to re-establish its relevance and they are investing heavily towards South of Pir Panjal," said Maj Gen Seth, who commanded his unit 15 Garhwal Regiment during operation Sarp Vinash (2003) in Hill Kaka.

SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
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High devotee turnout for Amarnath yatra

With thousands of devotees from different parts of the country visiting the Amarnath cave in south Kashmir Himalayas every day since the start of yatra on June 29, it is expected that a record number of yatris may perform the pilgrimage this year. According to officials over 3.86 lakh devotees have visited the cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas in the last 22 days. The 52-year-old yatra, which started on June 29, would culminate on August 19 coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan festivals. The Amarnath cave is situated at an altitude of 3,888 metres above sea level in south Kashmir Himalayas.

4 lawyers arrested in one month

Police have arrested four lawyers, including two former presidents of J&K High Court Bar Association in about a month in the Valley. On Tuesday evening, police arrested former General Secretary of J&K High Court Bar Association Mohammad Ashraf Bhat from his residence at Rawalpora area in uptown Srinagar. He has been booked under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged in Kathua jail in Jammu region. Police has not given any reason for Bhat's arrest. Bhat is the fourth senior lawyer arrested by police in over a month.

₹1 lakh fine on former IAS officer

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh on former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Parmer for filing a "mischievous and frivolous" plea against J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other top bureaucrats. The order passed by CAT's Jammu bench Judicial Member Rajinder Dogra stated that it was a service-related matter and instead of impleading the Union and the J&K governments, Parmar had impleaded J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and other authorities by their names. It observed that the applicant (retired IAS officer) has made top officials as party along with Lt Governor by name to settle his personal scores.

Independent Bihar MLA backs JD(U)

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

IT came as a major relief for Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar when newly elected Independent MLA from Rupauli Shankar Singh on Sunday hinted at extending his support the JD(U). Singh emerged victorious from the seat in by-election held on May 10 by defeating candidates of both JD(U) and RJD.

By-poll necessitated resignation of JD(U) sitting MLA Bima Bharti from the membership of the assembly after opposition RJD fielded her from Purnea Lok Sabha seat in the recently held general election. She, however, lost to Independent candidate Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav. Bharti was fielded as RJD candidate in by-poll which she lost to former MLA and muscleman Shankar Singh.

The Independent legislator said that he decided to support Nitish Kumar's JD(U) in the assembly as he was impressed with Kumar's principles and party's policies. "It's beyond that the state has progressed leaps and bounds under leadership of CM Nitish, who worked tirelessly to bring the state on right track. "Recall the days before 2005 when people feared to go outside after Sunset. The situation changed when Nitish came to power," he said.

Oppn set to corner Nitish as Assembly session begins today

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

Issues to be taken up

The opposition MLAs from RJD, Congress, CPI (ML), CPI and CPM have formulated a strategy to corner the state on various issues like alleged crime graph, NEET paper leak, bridge collapse incidents and alleged corruption in the government offices.

THE five-day Monsoon session of Bihar assembly, which will begin from Monday, is likely to be stormy as the RJD-led grand alliance is all set to corner the state government on various issues including the alleged rising crime graph, corruption, collapse of bridges and NEET-UG paper leak scandal.

During the brief session of the assembly, the first supplementary budget for the financial year 2024-25 will be tabled in the House. The state government will also bring a Bill in the House with an o bjective to curb exam paper leaks. The opposition MLAs from RJD, Congress, CPI (ML), CPI and CPI (M) have formulated a strategy to corner the state government on various issues like alleged crime graph, NEET paper leak, bridge collapse incidents and alleged corruption in the government offices. The opposition will also target the NDA on the issue of grant of special category status to Bihar.

Senior BJP minister Neeraj Kumar Singh Bablu said that the RJD had no right to speak on the issue of law and order when its own track record was so 'dismal'. RJD should be shameful for speaking on law and order, he added.

Ahead of the commencement of the state assembly's monsoon session, newly elected Independent MLA from Rupauli, Shankar Singh, has decided to support the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) government in Bihar. Singh heaped praise on chief minister Nitish Kumar for taking various initiatives for the development of the state. He also met Nitish at his official residence, 1, Anne Marg, in Patna later.

Tragedy on Kedarnath trekking route: Landslide kills 3 pilgrims

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

SDRF personnel conduct a rescue operation in Rudraprayag | PTI

THREE pilgrims lost their lives and five others injured in a landslide on the Kedarnath trekking route. The victims were caught in the debris due to continuous landslides caused by heavy rainfall.

A State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team arrived and immediately evacuated those injured. The bodies of 3 people who died were handed over to the district police by the SDRF. The injured five pilgrims were rescued and hospitalized for medical treatment".

Speaking to this newspaper, District Disaster Management Officer of Rudraprayag, Nandan Singh Rajwar told, "The emergency control room received a report at around 7:30 am on Sunday that some pilgrims were buried under debris and boulders that fell from the hillside along the Kedarnath yatra route, near Chirbasa.

SDRF Commandant Manikant Mishra told this newspaper, "Upon arriving at the scene, the team promptly rescued eight injured individuals and immediately transported them to the hospital. Unfortunately, three pilgrims had lost their lives at the site, and their bodies were handed over to the district police by the SDRF team".

DDMO Rajwar further told, "The situation is under control, and the route for the yatra has been slightly altered in view of the rescue and relief operations. The authorities are working tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of all pilgrims and to facilitate the smooth continuation of the yatra". Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami responded to the tragedy with a post on X. "The news of some pilgrims getting injured due to debris and heavy stones falling from the hill near the Kedarnath Yatra route is very sad," he wrote.

He also reassured people that rescue operations were still ongoing and that those injured would be taken care of. "Relief and rescue work is going on at the site of the accident, I am constantly in touch with the officials in this regard. I have given instructions to provide better treatment to the people injured in the accident immediately," he added.

The devotees were heading from Gaurikund to Kedarnath Dham. Over 26 lakh pilgrims, across India and abroad registered for the ongoing Char Dham Yatra. Earlier in the year, at least 20 people were injured after a bus carrying pilgrims from the Char Dham Yatra overturned in Rajasthan's Dausa. The pilgrims had been returning from Kedarnath to Badrinath.

Centre has failed to stop infiltration, alleges JMM

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

HITTING back at BJP's allegations that Bangladeshi infiltrators are changing the demography of Jharkhand, the ruling JMM has sought to put the central government in the dock, saying it is the responsibility of the Central government to stop infiltration.

According to JMM general secretary and spokesperson Vinod Pandey, the JMM-led government can't be held responsible for infiltration. BJP leaders have been alleging that the demography of Santhal Pargana has changed due to the state-sponsored infiltration of Bangladeshi people.

Pandey said it was the responsibility of the Centre to ensure security of international borders. "The question must be raised before Home Minister Amit Shah as the security of international borders is his ministry's subject. This is an allegation against the Home Ministry and the Centre," said Pandey.

Addressing the BJP's extended working committee meeting in Ranchi on Saturday, Shah accused Chief Minister Hemant Soren of being involved in 'love jihad' and 'land jihad' due to his "vote bank and appeasement policy," which he claimed was causing demographic changes.

Pandey said as far as infiltration was concerned, it was the Home Ministry's responsibility and now they were trying to impose their failure on the state government. He said that the state wants strict action against the infiltrators and the security of the international borders beefed up. "As the matter is being raised in the state just before the Assembly elections, it proves that the BJP wants to do politics in the name of Hindus and Muslims," said Pandey.

"Similar attempts were made by them in West Bengal by raising the Sandeshkhali issue just before the Lok Sabha polls, but now no one talks about it," he added.

Confusion in Ujjain over MP stance on display of eatery owners' names

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

THE Ujjain municipal corporation in Madhya Pradesh made a U-turn on Sunday, a day after asking shop owners to display their names and mobile numbers outside their establishments in the ancient city, a directive that came on the heels of a similar order by the BJP government in UP for eateries along the Kanwar Yatra routes.

Ujjain, the hometown of CM Mohan Yadav, is known for its Mahakal temple, attracting devotees from across the country, especially during the Savaan month, which starts on Monday. On Saturday evening, the Ujjain corporation's assistant commissioner (public relations) released a statement containing an appeal by mayor Mukesh Tatwal to mandatorily display shop owners' names and phone numbers within the municipal limits of the pilgrim city.

Violators will have to pay a ₹2,000 fine for the first offence and ₹5,000 if they defy this order for the second time, mayor Tatwal said on Saturday. He said the Mayor-in-Council of Ujjain had approved a proposal on September 26, 2002 for shopkeepers to display their names. He stressed that the measure is rooted in the MP Shop Establishment Act or Gumasta Licence, and it serves to enhance customer safety.

On Sunday evening, the UMC's assistant commissioner (PR) made a fresh statement, saying that no executive order had been passed by UMC for imposing penalty on those who fail to get their name displayed on their shops.

The urban development and housing department also issued a statement, making it clear that no instructions had been issued for display of owners' names on shops on Kanwar Yatra route. "There were reports about some urban local bodies compulsorily getting owners' names displayed on shops falling on the Kanwar Yatra routes, but the department has directed all local bodies to stay away from such confusion," the statement said.

PIL in C'garh against wild buffaloes being held captive

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Chhattisgarh high court has served notices to the Centre and the state government in a petition filed over keeping six wild buffaloes translocated from Assam captive in an "unlawful breeding centre" inside Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary, around 80 km from Raipur.

Asiatic wild buffalo, the state animal of Chhattisgarh, is a highly endangered species, with only one pure breed male, named 'Chotu', left in the state. According to the forest department data, there were 67 wild buffaloes in 2005 and the numbers declined to 12 in 2006.

"A sharp decrease in the population of wild buffaloes led Chhattisgarh to secure two male wild buffaloes in April 2020 and later four females in April 2023 from Manas National Park in Assam under the condition that after they will be released in the wild after 45 days. But these wild buffaloes are still kept in captivity that undermines the core objectives of the Wildlife (protection) Act 1972," said Nitin Singhvi, the petitioner. He demanded that the wild buffaloes be sent back to its original habitat in Assam as "Chhattisgarh's actions, evidently in blatant disregard to the Act, compromised the genetic integrity and welfare of the Assam buffaloes."

A division bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Ravindra K Agrawal gave the Centre and the state four weeks to reply. An advisory has been issued by the Centre in September 2023 stating that there cannot be any zoo (including breeding centre) inside the sanctuary.

22 dead
After a head-on collision between a truck and a bus in Bolivia

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	31	19	SNY	Los Angeles	28	19	LC
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	20	9	LR
Dhaka	33	26	TDS	Moscow	17	10	HR
Dubai	38	27	SNY	New York	28	19	SNY
Houston	31	23	TDS	Singapore	31	24	TDS
Istanbul	29	21	LC	Toronto	18	13	LC
London	22	17	LC	Washington	31	21	LC

What happens next: Joe Biden wants to pass the baton to Kamala Harris

ATLANTA

WITH President Joe Biden ending his reelection bid and endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris, Democrats now must navigate a shift that is unprecedented this late in an election year. Democrats are set to hold their convention in Chicago on Aug. 19-22. What was supposed to be a coronation for Biden now becomes an open contest in which nearly 4,700 delegates will be responsible for picking a new standard-bearer to challenge Republican Donald Trump in the fall. The path ahead is neither easy nor obvious, even with Biden endorsing Harris. There are unanswered questions about logistics, money and political fallout.

Can Biden redirect his delegates?
Biden won every state primary and caucus earlier this year and only lost the territory of American Samoa. At least 3,896 delegates had been pledged to support him. Current party rules do not permit Biden to pass them to another candidate. Politically, though, his endorsement is likely to be influential.

What could happen at the convention?
With Biden stepping aside, Democrats technically start with an open convention. But realistically, his endorsement pushes Democrats into murky territory. The immediate burden is on Harris to solidify support across almost 4,000 delegates from the states, territories and District of Columbia, plus more than 700 so-called superdelegates that include party leaders, certain elected officials and former presidents and vice presidents.

Will anyone challenge Harris?
Even before Biden announced his decision, Democrats floated California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as potential contenders in addition to Harris. Yet some Democrats argued publicly, and many privately, that it would be a no-brainer to elevate the first woman, first Black woman and first person of south Asian descent to hold national office. Given how important Black voters — and Black women especially — were to Biden's nomination and his choice of Harris as running mate, it would be risky, to say the least, for Democrats to pass her over for a white nominee. Democrats already faced historical headwinds before Biden's withdrawal. Newsom and Whitmer, both of whom are white, and any other Democrat would also have to weigh the short-term and long-term benefits of challenging Harris now versus preserving goodwill for a future presidential primary.

Yet, fair or not, Harris also has not been viewed as an especially beloved or empowered vice president. The best scenario for her and Democrats is to quickly shore up support and project a united front. Democrats could even go forward with their plans for an early virtual vote – a move they'd planned to make sure Biden was selected ahead of Ohio's general election ballot deadline.

What happens to Biden's campaign money?
Biden's campaign recently reported $91 million cash on hand. Allied Democratic campaign committees brought the total at his disposal to more than $240 million. Campaign finance experts agree generally that Harris could control all those funds since the campaign was set up in her name as well as Biden's. If Democrats do nominate someone other than Harris, party accounts could still benefit the nominee, but the Biden-Harris account would have more restrictions. For example, legal experts say it could become an independent expenditure political action committee but not simply transfer its balance to a different nominee.

How will a vice presidential nomination work?
The vice presidential nomination is always a separate convention vote. In routine years, the convention ratifies the choice of the nominee. If Harris closes ranks quickly, she could name her choice and have the delegates ratify it. In an extended fight, though, the vice presidency could become part of horse-trading — again, a return to conventions of an earlier era.

Can Republicans keep Harris off state ballots?
Any curveball during a U.S. presidential campaign is certain to produce a flurry of state and federal lawsuits in this hyper-partisan era, and some conservatives have threatened just that. State laws, though, typically do not prescribe how parties choose their nominees for president. And some GOP figures have worked already this year to ensure their party did not deny Democrats' routine ballot access. *AP*

AFTER NOMINATION

I took a bullet for democracy, Trump says at campaign rally

WASHINGTON

FORMER US president Donald Trump in his first campaign rally since surviving an assassination attempt dismissed concerns raised by critics that he is a threat to democracy, telling a large crowd in Michigan that he 'took a bullet for democracy.'

In the rally in Michigan on Saturday, Trump, who is the Republican presidential nominee for the November 5 elections, was joined by his running mate J D Vance.

Michigan is one of the handful of crucial swing states expected to determine the outcome of November's presidential election.

More than 12,000 people piled into the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids to see him and his running mate.

"They keep saying he's a threat to democracy. I'm saying, 'What the hell did I do to democracy?' Last week I took a bullet for democracy," Trump said, referencing an often-used Democrat talking point. "What did I do against democracy? Crazy," Trump, 78, said amidst applause from thousands of his supporters.

The former president also spoke about Project 2025, which his rivals and the opposition Democratic Party claim is an initiative that threatens democracy.

"I don't want to know anything about it. But what they do is misinformation and disinformation," he said, as he distanced himself from it.

Overseen by the conservative Heritage Foundation, the multi-pronged initiative includes a detailed blueprint for the next Republican president to usher a sweeping overhaul of the executive branch. "I shouldn't be here right now, but something very special happened," Trump, who wore a bandage on his ear, said at the rally.

Trump spoke for nearly two hours.

He also alleged that the rival Democratic Party is trying to overthrow the results of their primaries to dump incumbent President Joe Biden from the ballot. *PTI*

Russia intercepts US bombers over Arctic

MOSCOW

RUSSIA said on Sunday that it scrambled fighter jets to prevent two US strategic bomber planes from crossing its border over the Barents Sea in the Arctic. The US military routinely carries out flights over international waters, operations that it says are conducted in neutral airspace and in accordance with international law.

But Moscow has responded more aggressively to the exercises in recent months, warning in June that US drone flights over the Black Sea risked leading to a "direct" military clash. The Russian defence ministry said it had scrambled fighter jets to intercept an "air target approaching the state border of the Russian Federation".

"The crews of the Russian fighters identified the aerial target as a pair of US Air Force B-52H strategic bombers," it said. "As the Russian fighters approached, the American strategic bombers corrected their flight course, moving away and then turning away from Russia's state border," it said.

In June, Moscow accused the United States of using its reconnaissance drone flights over neutral waters in the Black Sea to help Ukraine strike the Russian-annexed Crimean peninsula. *AFP*

Philippines, China agree on reef resupply missions

Manila: THE Philippines and China have agreed on an "arrangement" for resupplying Filipino troops stationed on a South China Sea reef, Manila said on Sunday, after a series of escalating confrontations in the disputed waters. A remote outpost on Second Thomas Shoal has been a focus of clashes between Chinese and Philippine ships in recent months as Beijing steps up efforts to push its claims to almost the entire South China Sea. A Filipino sailor lost a thumb in the latest June 17 confrontation when Chinese coast guard members wielding knives, sticks and an axe foiled a Philippine Navy attempt to resupply its troops. Sunday's announcement follows talks between the Philippines and China this month when they agreed to increase the number of communication channels to resolve maritime disagreements between them. "The Philippines and the People's Republic of China have reached an understanding on the provisional arrangement for the resupply of daily necessities and rotation missions to the BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal," the Philippine foreign ministry, using the Filipino name for Second Thomas Shoal. The foreign ministry did not provide details of the arrangement | AFP

A file photo of a Su-25 fighter jet firing rockets during a mission over Ukraine released by Russian Defence Ministry Press Service | AP

Russia, Ukraine exchange drone, missile shelling at each other

KYIV

RUSSIA and Ukraine exchanged drone, missile and shelling attacks on Sunday. At least two people were killed in Ukrainian strikes on the partly Russian-occupied Donetsk region, Russian state media said, while Ukrainian officials said Russian strikes wounded at least five people.

Along the frontline in the east, Russia said it had taken control of two villages, one in the Kharkiv region and one in the Luhansk region.

Ukrainian shelling of Russia-held areas of the Donetsk region killed two people in the village of Horlivka, Russian news agency *RIA Novosti* said.

Three people were wounded by Russian drone strikes in southern Ukraine's partly occupied Kherson region, local officials said on Sunday morning. In the country's northeast, officials in the Kharkiv region said two people were wounded when a village was hit by Russian shells.

Overnight into Sunday, Ukraine's air defences intercepted 35 of the 39 drones launched by Russia, according to air force commander Mykola Oleschuk. In addition, Russia launched three ballistic missiles and two guided air missiles, which did not reach their targets, he said.

Russia's Ministry of Defence said on Sunday that its troops had taken control of two villages: Pishchane Nizhne in the Kharkiv region and Andriivka, sometimes referred to as Rozivka, in the Luhansk region. Kyiv did not comment.

Officials in the northern Sumy region said that Russia launched a missile strike on "critical infrastructure facilities" in the city of Shostka destroying "two heating facilities." *AP*

MALAYSIA

OIL TANKER IN COLLISION DETAINED

A large oil tanker that collided with another vessel off its coast and fled the scene has been detained, the coast guard said on Sunday. The Sao Tome and Principe-flagged Ceres I tanker had collided with the Singapore-flagged Hafnia Nile two days ago, causing both ships to catch fire, the coast guard said in a statement. The Ceres I then illegally left the location of the collision and turned off its tracking system, it added. An air and sea search was immediately activated by authorities. Aerial surveys conducted found an oil spill covering five square nautical miles. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

130 KG MARIJUANA CONFISCATED

Residents chasing a car that fled after hitting a villager in Asahan regency, North Sumatra, made an unexpected discovery: 130 kilograms of dried marijuana inside the vehicle, *Jakarta Globe* reported. The incident occurred on Friday, and the police were immediately contacted to arrest the driver. Officers confiscated four sacks containing marijuana.

SINGAPORE

WATER LILIES IN GARDENS FROM SEPT

The Japanese and Chinese Gardens, which have been closed for redevelopment since May 2019, will reopen in September as part of Jurong Lake Gardens' next phase of opening, *The Straits Times* reported. Visitors can expect to be greeted with expanses of water dotted with shades of yellow, blue, white, pink and purple – part of what will be Singapore's largest water lily collection – when they cross the Japanese Garden Bridge, a 15-minute walk from Jurong East MRT station. The garden will feature over 150 water lily varieties from the US, UK, France and Thailand.

Nepal PM Oli wins floor test, secures two-third majority in Parliament

KATHMANDU

NEPAL Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli won a crucial floor test in Parliament on Sunday with more than two-thirds of lawmakers voting in his favour, nearly a week after he was sworn in to lead a coalition government in the politically unstable nation.

Oli secured 188 votes in favour of the Vote of Confidence motion tabled by him while 74 votes were cast against him. Out of a total of 263 members of the House of Representatives who were present, one member abstained. Oli, 72, required 138 votes to pass the floor test in the lower house of Parliament.

"I declare that the motion of the vote of confidence tabled by Prime Minister Oli has been endorsed with a majority," announced Speaker Devraj Ghimire after the counting of votes. According to Nepal's Constitution, Oli needed to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment. He was sworn in on Monday as Nepal's Prime Minister for a fourth time. Earlier while tabling the motion seeking a vote of confidence in his government, Oli made public the content of the seven-point agreement reached between the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML earlier this month. Oli said that the agreement between the two major parties was part of the two largest parties' efforts to address the country's pressing issues. "We [the two parties] compete in our ideologies, but there are instances of collaboration between the Congress and the UML,' he said.

"This is a continuation of that collaboration. We have agreed to work together to protect national interests, control corruption, improve governance, expedite development activities, and ensure political stability, in accordance with the public desire," Oli said.

Oli said his government will neither tolerate corruption nor let it happen. He said the government will confidently move forward for good governance. *PTI*

Netanyahu set to surpass Churchill in address to US Congress for 4th time

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to deliver a landmark speech to the US Congress this week as he fights off intense pressure to cut a Gaza war ceasefire deal with Hamas. Israel's longest-serving premier will on Wednesday become the first foreign leader to address a joint meeting of the two chambers four times – pulling ahead of Britain's Winston Churchill on three. But analysts said the Gaza has created worrying tensions between Israel and the United States, its main military and diplomatic backer. Netanyauhu's office announced that he will meet US President Joe Biden on Tuesday. Washington fears a backlash from the mounting civilian toll in the Gaza Strip, while protests in Israel by families of hostages taken by Hamas are also causing headaches for Netanyahu. Biden and some Israeli ministers said a deal negotiated through Qatar, Egyptian and US mediators is possible. A plan outlined in May proposed a six-week ceasefire when some Israeli hostages would be swapped for Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday that negotiators were "inside the 10 yard line and driving toward the goal line".

Hamas has accused Netanyahu of seeking to block a deal however and Blinken said he wants to "bring the agreement over the finish line" when Netanyahu is in Washington. Israel has intensified its attacks on Gaza in recent weeks and Netanyahu has insisted that only piling on military pressure can free the hostages and beat Hamas.

"This double pressure is not delaying the deal – it is advancing it," Netanyahu told troops in Gaza on Thursday. Publicly, Biden has voiced strong support for Israel. But he expressed concern over an offensive on the southern city of Rafah in May and for a while suspended deliveries of heavy bombs to Israel. Supplies of 2,000-pound bombs remain embargoed. While US Republicans pressed to invite Netanyahu to address Congress, he has lost support among Democrats. One Jewish senator, Democrat Brian Schatz of Hawaii, announced he would boycott Wednesday's speech, said he would not listen to "political rhetoric that will do nothing to bring peace in the region". Much attention will be focused on whether Netanyahu meets with Donald Trump or a figure close to the Republican presidential candidate.

Despite the tensions, the US has defended Israel *AFP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. Manju Lamani,** R/a # 362, 2-ward, Petlur village and Post, Mudhol Taluk confirm resident of the above address.

We hereby declare that my client has Lost the below mentioned Original Sale deed near LIC HFL, Yelahanka Branch on 21st July 2024.

The Document of title Original Sale deeds with respect to Site No.75, Khatha No.287/252/75 measuring (40×30) feet, situated at Chagalatti village (Sky View Smart Enclaves), Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, This above Original Sale Deed (Mother Deed) bearing Document No.535/2012-13 dated 07/05/2012, is registered in the office of the SRO, Jala Further Police complaint has been lodged on 21/07/2024 in Online bearing Lost Report.No.1155033/2024 to this effect which has been duly acknowledged. The above Public Notice is now issued. Any person having claim/in possession of the said document may represent to the under signed **within 14 days** failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.

A.Prashanth, Advocate
No.3755, SAMPRATHI, DESHADAPETE
Doddaballapur Town-561203. Mob : 9686628181.

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Shri Venkatesh G, S/o. Govinda. R. Residence : No. 10, 8th Cross, Near Anupama School, Andarahalli Main Road, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560091. I hereby inform that Original Sale deed Document No.3704/98-99, Dated 9-11-1998, Registered at the office of Sub-Registrar Bangalore North Taluk belongs to Sy.No.53, Khata No 246, Site No. 55 measuring 30x40, Tammenahalli village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North taluk has been lost while we shifting the house, inspite of my best efforts i could not trace the same, in this regard I had lodged a police complaint bearing Lost report No.1154470/2024, Date: 20/07/2024. If any one found the above said document, or is in possession, please deliver at the above address or call 9008669752 or inform to the nearest Police station.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public that my client Sri. M. NAGARAJU, S/o. Late Hosamane Muniyappa, residing at No.324, Bhannerghatta Road, Maha Ganapathi Temple, Kembattahalli, Bangalore 560083 has lost and not traceable of the following original Documents:-

1. Sale Deed dtd.12.03.1962, registered as Doc No. 8321/1961-62, Book No.1, Vol.298, page Nos.25-27, in the Office of Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk.
2. Sale Deed dtd.05.05.1972, registered as No.1015/1972-73, Book No.1, Page Nos.151-152, in the Office of Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk.
3. Sale Deed dtd.30.05.1973, registered as No.1370/1973-74, Book No.1, Page No.230-232, in the Office of Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk.
4. Sale Deed dtd.06.10.1995, registered as No.7831/1995-96, Book No.1, Vol. 1370, Page No.103-108, in the Office of Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk.

If the above documents found by or in the custody of any person/s please hand it over to me or send it me. Any persons, Bank and Financial Institutions having or claiming any manner of rights ,title, lien, interest etc in respect of the above said documents may write/contact the undersigned within **7** days with documentary proof, failing which may client will treat the certified copies of the said documents as original and objections received thereafter is not binding to my client.

In this regard a police complaint was also given on 30.04.2014 in Thalagattapura Police station, Bangalore.

In this regard on **15.05.2014** in Udayavani and Indian Express was also published.

M. VENKATASWAMY, B.E., LL.B., M B A
ADVOCATE
Shiv Kailash Apt , 2ndMain , C M Layout, Adj ITI Layout, Yellukunte, Bommanahalli Post, BENGALURU-560068. **Ph : 9901026725**
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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF I ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU
Crl. Misc. 44/2022
BETWEEN : MRS. SAKSHI BARANWAL
...PETITIONER
AND : MR. SAURABH KEJRIWAL ...RESPONDENT
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT

To, **MR. SAURABH KEJRIWAL,** S/o Rajendra Kejriwal, Aged 30 years, Presently R/O: B420 Parimala Sunridge, Varthur Main Road, Opp. D Mart, Siddapura, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066.

Whereas, the above-named petitioner has filed the above petition under section 12, 18, 20 and 22 of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 against you for the Domestic Violence. You are hereby summoned to appear in person or through a pleader duly instructed before 1st Additional Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru. Take notice that in default of your appear appearance. **On the 29th day of August 2024 at 11.00 A.M.** The petitioner will be heard and determined in your absence, placing you as ex-parte.

Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on this day 18th July 2024.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioner : **SONIA RAJESH,** Advocate 423/1, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, 6th Main OMBR Layout, Bengaluru-560043.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby notifying general public and financial institutions that my clients **1. Sri. SUNIL MALIK,** and **2. Smt. ALPANA MALIK,** has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. K. PARAMESHWARA, Sri. K. KUMARESH, Sri. K. JAGADESH,** Children of Late. T. N. Krishnan @ Krishnappa, Residing at at No.8, O.T.C. Road, Next to Sharada Theater, Bangalore - 560002. Their family members, financial institutions and the general public are hereby notified that if anybody has any objections, claims, charges, lien etc., if any in respect of the schedule property may lodge their objections with documentary proof relied upon with the undersigned within SEVEN (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, my client proceeds to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF Property Bearing **No.3/1, (Old No.11, than No.13) having BBMP PID No.47-132-3/1,** Situated at Dasopanth Lane, Sunkalpet, Bengaluru, presently coming under the Limits of BBMP Ward No.47, Dharmarayaswamy Temple, Bangalore, **measuring East to West : 17 feet and North to South : 37 feet, in all 629 sq feet** along with Building having 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Ground Floor, 600 sq feet Built Up Area in First Floor, 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Second Floor, 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Third Floor and 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Fourth Floor and 200 sq feet Built up area in Fifth Floor having total Built Up Area of 3200 sq feet, having RCC Roofing, Vitrified Tiles Flooring, Doors and Windows made of Jungle Wood and Steel with all civic amenities and the same is bounded on as under : East by : 3 feet Passage; West by : Private Property; North by : Dasopanth Lane; South by : Property belonging to Sri. T.N. Gangadharan.

***VENU GOPAL. I,* Advocate,**
No.8, 13th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru - 560 002.

IN THE COURT OF XV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-03)
G AND W.C. 24/2024

PETITIONERS : 1. Smt. Jayamma, Aged about 58 years, W/o Late Chikke Gowda, **2. Miss B.R Varshini,** Aged about 17 years, D/o Late Ramesh G.S. Petitioner No.2 being Minor Represented by her grandmother and Guardian Smt. Jayamma The 1st Petitioner, Both R/at #39, Tharanigere, Mandya Taluk, Mandya District-560019.

-V/s-

RESPONDENTS : Nil

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioners above named has filed Under Section 7, 8 and 29 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 praying to appoint the Petitioner No.1, the maternal grandmother of Petitioner No.2 as the Legal Guardian of the Petitioner No.2 at all time and to carry out any acts and deeds necessary for petitioner No.2's benefit and Well-being, including but not limited to making decisions regarding, healthcare, residence and financial matters. Also to sell the schedule property held by the father of Petitioner No.2 for the realization of outstanding loans owed to Canara Bank, Branch Jayanagara Branch and to obtain Original Documents pertaining to the Schedule Property deposited at the time of execution of the Memorandum of Title Deeds dated 04.03.2020 vide Loan Account No. 0408627000017, availed at Canara Bank, Bangalore Jayanagara Shopping Complex Branch, PB No.1611 and including the power to sell and deal with the schedule property in all manner held by her father Sri. Ramesh who demised on 21.01.2021 in all manner in the best **interest of Petitioner No.2 who is minor and also unsound.**

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this Court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 9.08.2024 at 11.00 a.m.** inform to show cause against the Petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-Parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential Immovable property bearing Site No.23, measuring East to West : 9.00 meters (30 feet) and North to South 12.00 meters (40 feet) totally measuring 108.00 square Meters, situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 7th Block, which is BDA formed layout and bounded as follows:- **East by :** property belongs to site No.24, **West by :** property belongs to site No.22. **North by :** property belongs to site No.38. **South by :** Road.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 12.07.2024.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE: M/s. PRAGNYA LAW
No.39/1, ASVNV CENTENARY BHAVANA, Chamber No. 19, 1st Floor, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009. Ph: 9739414181
E-mail: reachusout@pragnyalaw.com

₹30,772 CR have been infused by FPIs in Indian equities in July.

Budget 2024: Govt to make new tax regime more lucrative

The government may introduce one potential change by introducing a new tax slab for incomes between ₹15 lakh and ₹18 lakh, with a proposed tax rate of 25%

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE government is likely to make the new tax regime more lucrative by extending the exemption slab from ₹3 lakh to ₹ 4 lakh, sources told TNIE. In addition to this, current standard deduction of ₹50,000 may be increased to ₹75,000.

"The government may move towards a 'Single Hybrid Tax Regime' as the new taxpayers are already in the new tax regime. It is expected that the exemption slab in the new regime may be extended from the present ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh at least," a top source said.

"Standard deduction for salaried taxpayers may be increased. Standard deduction was introduced in 2019 and now it is expected that it should increase to at least ₹75000," he added. Established taxpayers with incomes exceeding ₹15 lakh continue to favour the old tax regime.

Sources suggest that the government may introduce incentives to encourage a transition to the new tax regime for these taxpayers. One potential change could be the introduction of a new tax slab for incomes between ₹15 lakh and ₹18 lakh, with a proposed tax rate of 25%.

"These changes will help in more cash flow in the hands of salaried class. It will boost consumption and help GDP growth of the country, thus also promoting employment generation to cater to the increased demand," said Vivek Jalan, Partner with Tax Connect Advisory.

The Government of India launched a new optional tax regime on April 1, 2020, for individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUF).

CURRENT INCOME TAX RATES

OLD TAX REGIME	INCOME TAX SLAB RATES		
Annual income	Individuals less than **60** yrs	**60** yrs and above but less than **80** yrs	Above **80** yrs
Up to ₹2,50,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
2,50,001-300,000	5%	Nil	Nil
300,001-500,000	5%	5%	Nil
500,001-10,00,000	20%	20%	20%
Above 10,00,000	30%	30%	30%

NEW TAX REGIME

ANNUAL INCOME	TAX RATE
Up to ₹300,000	Nil
300,001-600,000	5%
600,001-900,000	10%
900,001-12,00,000	15%
12,00,001-15,00,000	20%
Above 15,00,000	30%

Note: Under Section 87A, taxable income up to ₹7 lakh attract no taxes under the new regime; under the old regime, the cap is ₹5 lakh. In both old and new tax regimes, stanadrd deduction of ₹50,000 is allowed.

In the Budget 2023, the new tax regime was established as the default tax system, requiring individuals who wish to opt for the old tax regime to make a selection. The new tax regime has expanded the taxation framework to include six tax slabs, with rates ranging from 0% to 30%. The highest tax rate applies to income exceeding ₹15 lakh.

The old tax regime is beneficial for individuals who can take advantage of various deductions and exemptions. The choice between the old and new tax regimes largely hinges on the amount of deductions one can claim.

The greater the deductions, the more tax savings one can achieve with the old regime; otherwise, the new tax regime may be more advantageous, say experts. A significant distinction between the two regimes is the removal of most exemptions and deductions in the new tax regime. Notable deductions that are eliminated include those under Section 80C (up to ₹1.5 lakh for investments in EPF, PPF, ELSS, life insurance premiums, and the National Pension System), Section 80D (health insurance premiums and specified medical expenses for senior citizens), Section 80CCD (1B) for additional NPS investments, as well as deductions for House Rent Allowance (HRA), Leave Travel Allowance (LTA), and interest on loans for self-occupied properties. Additionally, losses from rental properties cannot be offset against other income categories and cannot be carried forward.

RUN-UP TO BUDGET

However, some deductions are still available under the new tax regime, such as a standard deduction of ₹50,000 and deductions for employer contributions to the NPS under Section 80CCD(2). Moreover, resident individual taxpayers with an income of up to ₹7 lakhs are not required to pay any tax due to the rebate under Section 87A.

Changes will help in more cash flow in the hands of salaried class. It will boost consumption and help GDP growth of the country, thus also promoting employment generation.

Vivek Jalan, Partner with Tax Connect Advisory

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT NOT TO EXPECT FROM BUDGET 2024

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

A nation's Budget is expected to do a balancing act. The government needs money to provide you with the necessary social and economic infrastructure. As you build your expectations from the government for your personal finances, you must know about things you cannot expect from the Budget 2024.

As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rises to present the Budget for 2024-25 on Tuesday, financial markets expect business as usual. They do not anticipate surprises in the Budget. There is a lot of reading about the outcome of the general election. The noise from the opposition parties calls for more giveaways to the country's people through universal income or social security. India's consumption in rural and urban segments declined over the past few years.

There is undoubtedly a need to put more money in the hands of consumers as they battle persistently high food inflation. The government has the cushion of surplus tax and non-tax revenue to address that issue in the current fiscal year.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The current stock and bond market prices in any such higher allocation towards boosting consumption. However, if you expect the government to give you any significant relief on personal income tax at this juncture, you may be expecting too much. There is no expectation of any Big Bang personal tax reforms. It has already provided relief to everyone earning up to ₹15 lakh per annum under the new tax regime. The maximum tax you could pay on that income is 10%. That probably covers most of the people who belong to the salaried middle class. As of 2022-23, only 7.7 crore people filed income tax returns. That is less than 6% of the population. Many of them file zero tax returns. Those paying direct taxes are fewer. The government needs more people to pay taxes in India. As a result, do not expect the government to do much on the income tax front.

There is not much the government can do regarding goods and services tax in the Budget. The GST Council determines the tax rates. Hence, you may not want to build too many expectations about household items getting cheaper than before.

In a speech last week, the Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das warned of a risk to the banking system. He said there was a visible decline in household bank deposits as there was an increase in the allocation of mutual funds, insurance, and pension funds. He hinted that there was a change in the household behaviour in favour of investing rather than saving in banks. That is also reflected in the significant surge in retail investor participation in the stock market. More allocation is also made to systematic investment plans of mutual funds. That monthly money supply is turning into a bedrock for Indian equity markets.

The decline in the bank deposit growth would concern the government. It is happening at a time when credit growth has picked up. The government wants businesses to expand and create jobs. As a result, banks have to use expensive forms of capital raise to ensure that they have enough money to pay their liabilities and support credit growth. That squeezes liquidity out of the system and prevents borrowing rates from decreasing further. That is perhaps the primary reason the RBI monetary policy committee continues to take a hawkish stance.

While the government wants you to save and invest more each year, you cannot expect any relief in capital gains tax or the tax on dividends. If the government encourages investing in equities, the banking system would be under further pressure due to slow deposit growth.

The Budget 2024 exercise may just confirm the outline given by the finance minister in the interim Budget. The government will try to balance the expectations about boosting rural and urban consumption that people want while keeping up with the momentum of capital expenditure that businesses seek. That requires some serious money. It is unlikely to bring any significant tax cuts for you. As such, you may want to cut through the noise and tone down the expectation.

MONEY-WISE

FLEXI CAP FUNDS UNDER THE SCANNER

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

(Views expressed here are personal)

HAVING initiated a discussion on how the sub-category of Flexi-Cap Funds came into being well after the initial categorisation of Equity Mutual Funds by SEBI, their characteristics and points of differentiation with Multi-cap Funds, in this column, we shall cast a glance at some of the funds on offer in this category for investors and how they have performed over time frames of 3 and 5 years.

These Flexi-Cap funds that we have randomly selected to place under the spotlight include Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund, Kotak Flexi Cap Fund, Franklin India Flexi Cap Fund, DSP Flexi Cap Fund and SBI Flexi Cap Fund.

Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹71,700 crore. It holds 71% in Equity, 14%Overseas Securities, 4 % in Debt instruments and has a Cash Holding of 11%.

Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Banks, Computer Software and Power industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 19.61% over 3 years and 25.2% over 5 years.

Kotak Flexi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹51,094 crore. It holds 99.4% in Equity, 0.1% in Debt instruments and has a Cash Holding of 0.5 %. Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Banks, Cement and Cement Products and IT-Software industries.

This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 18.85% over 3 years and 18.45% over 5 years.

Franklin India Flexi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹16,677 core. It holds 93.5% in Equity and has a Cash Holding of 6.5%. Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Banks, IT-Software and Telecom Services industries.

This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 23.08% over 3 years and 22.45% over 5 years. DSP Flexi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹11,391 crore. It holds 98.5% in Equity and the remainder 1.5% in Debt instruments and Cash Holding. Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Banks, Finance and Auto Components industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 17.16% over 3 years and 20.94% over 5 years.

SBI Flexi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹21,989 crore. It holds 90% in Equity, 5% in Overseas Securities and has a Cash Holding of 5%. Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Financial Services, Information Technology and Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 15.51% over 3 years and 17.25% over 5 years.

It is noteworthy that the above funds not only have varying AUM sizes, but also have a diverse allocation mix across market capitalisations and accord higher weightages to different sectors, thus varying their risk-reward ratios.

Given that comparability of performance might require some additional sifting and calibration, it would be prudent for investors to seek professional advice before making an investment in these funds.

That might help to select the right funds in one's portfolio and optimize its returns.

Crypto exchange WazirX offers $23 mn bounty to help recover stolen assets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

CRYPTO exchange WazirX on Sunday announced the launch of a comprehensive bounty program to recover the stolen funds. This is in response to the cyber attack, which occurred on July 18, 2024. The attack resulted in a staggering $230 million being stolen from the WazirX multisig Ethereum Wallet.

It said participants are invited to track and provide actionable intelligence that leads to the freezing of the stolen funds.

For successful intelligence that facilitates freezing of the stolen amount, rewards of up to $10,000 worth of USDT will be disbursed. Collaboration with WazirX is essential if participants cannot freeze the funds themselves. WazirX also said that ethical hackers and experts are encouraged to assist in the recovery process.

WazirX also invited white hat hackers, blockchain forensics experts, and cybersecurity professionals from around the world to join this mission. "This collaborative effort presents a unique opportunity to showcase skills on a global stage while contributing to the security and integrity of the crypto ecosystem," it said in a blog post. The bounty program will be active for three months.

"Our foremost goal is to recover the stolen funds. This bounty program is designed to tap into the expertise of the community to achieve this critical objective. We remain committed to transparency and collaboration, reinforcing our dedication to a secure and resilient digital finance ecosystem," said Nischal Shetty, Founder, WazirX.

Earlier on X he said that the WazirX hack was not due to a phishing link and that three signatures of the exchange from three different devices that each use different hardware wallets were used.

Number of land deals down in Q2 over soaring prices

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LAND acquisition by developers and other entities plunged in the second quarter of this year (April-June) as the 2024 general elections and skyrocketing land prices dampened sentiments. The number of land deals closed in Q2 2024 came down to 25 transactions for over 325 acres' area, according to data shared by property consultant ANAROCK. In contrast, Q1 2024 saw about 29 land deals for over 721 acres closed across the country.

Prashant Thakur, Regional Director & Head - Research & Advisory, ANAROCK Group, states that from across cities, Bengaluru topped in the number of land deals. "The city saw 9 separate deals for about 114 acres closed in Q2 2024. All deals are proposed for residential developments. Gurugram followed, remaining a hot market for land deals in Q2 2024. As many as 7 deals for over 77.5 acres were closed here in this period for residential development and agriculture."

Of the total land deals closed in Q2 2024 (Apr.-June), over 17 for more than 163 acres have been proposed for residential developments. Agriculture, mixed-use development, data centers, logistics parks, industrial, and retail saw one deal each. "While Bengaluru continues to be a hotbed for residential development, Gurugram has also upped its game," said Thakur. "Demand has been soaring here in the last couple of years, and developers are able to sell units in new projects very quickly post launch. Mumbai, which topped in land deals in the previous quarters, saw just 2 land deals closed in Q2 2024 – one for industrial purposes and the other for retail development." On the other hand, land deals data trends for the first half of 2024 are more upbeat. As many as 54 deals for over 1,045 acres were closed in the period across the country. In contrast, about 46 deals for over 950 acres were closed in the corresponding period last year (H1 2023). Bengaluru and Gurugram closed maximum deals (15 each) for about 216 acres and 162 acres, respectively in H1 2024. Mumbai saw 5 land deals for about 34 acres in the first half this year. Hyderabad and Chennai each closed 3 deals for nearly 63.5 acres and 48 acres, respectively.

Vedanta Limited raises ₹8,500 crore via maiden QIP at ₹440 per share

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

VEDANTA Limited on Sunday announced that it has raised ₹8,500 crore through its maiden qualified institutional placement (QIP).

A total number of 19.32 crore equity shares were allocated at ₹440 per equity share through the QIP. Some of the marquee investors that have been allotted equity shares through the QIP include Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Goldman Sachs AMC, Nippon Mutual Fund, SBI Mutual Fund, UTI Mutual Fund, ICICI Mutual Fund, Aditya Birla Mutual Fund and Mirae Mutual Fund. Vedanta QIP was launched on 15 July 2024 and was closed on 19 July. Vedanta received applications for equity shares of about 2.6x of the offer size from marquee domestic mutual funds, foreign institutional investors, large family offices and multi strategy funds.

The proceeds from the QIP will be used to continue to deleverage Vedanta Limited balance sheet and to help deliver the company's $10 billion EBITDA targets in the near term.

Vedanta Chairman **Anil Agarwal** said, "The overwhelming response to the Vedanta QIP underscores the huge confidence that the global investor community has in Vedanta. We remain closely aligned with the goals of ensuring India's self-reliance and security in the area of critical minerals and energy, while contributing significantly to the nation's economic prosperity and the creation of shareholder value." The consolidated net debt of Vedanta Ltd at the end of FY24 was ₹56,338 crore.

Nadal falls to Borges in Nordea Open final

Rafael Nadal's winning run at the clay-court Nordea Open ended when the Spaniard was beaten by Nuno Borges 6-3, 6-2 in the final. The seventh-seeded Portuguese player broke the Nadal serve five times on his way to a first ATP tour victory. It was Nadal's first final since the 2022 French Open. "It's crazy, in tennis it doesn't happen when you expect it sometimes," said Borges.

Olympics offers a quadrennial window into some of the best performers. At Paris, the women's 400m freestyle will be one unmissable discipline. Four of the five fastest women in history in the event will go head to head. Outwardly, they, Olympic champs, world champs, current and a couple of former world record holders, have avoided the trash talk. Inwardly, the four have a burning desire to place their tanks on this event. **Swaroop Swaminathan** takes a magnifying glass

WELCOME TO THE RACE OF THE GAMES

Ariarne Titmus, AUS
World record holder

Katie Ledecky, USA
GOAT

Summer McIntosh, CAN
Heir apparent

Erika Fairweather, NZ
Dreamer

WHAT'S a GOAT to the current world-record holder? What's the current world-record holder to a future Hall of Famer? What's all of them to a dreamer?

The four — the GOAT, the world-record holder, the future Hall of Famer and the dreamer — will likely swim on the Opening night of the Paris Games. It has already been dubbed as the 'Race of the Century'.

As far as sporting hyperboles go, 'Race of the Century' is a decent starting point. It may be unoriginal but there's no doubting what it aims to convey. The Paris Games, like a few other preceding ones, will have its own version. The women's 400m freestyle. Katie Ledecky vs. Summer McIntosh vs. Ariarne Titmus vs. Erika Fairweather. All four have won multiple Worlds medals. Three of them, McIntosh, Titmus and Ledecky, have been at it for at least two years.

In 2023, Fairweather entered the chat. The then Kiwi teen won bronze ahead of McIntosh at the Worlds. In 2024, at a Worlds without any of Ledecky, McIntosh and Titmus, Fairweather won gold with a time of 3:59.44. Another swimmer going below the magical four-minute mark. With a time like that, she would be a favourite for gold in most Olympics. In Paris, she is the fourth favourite for first. So, basically, the woman who beats everybody (Titmus), against the woman (Ledecky) who generally beats everybody except the woman who beats everybody, versus the woman (McIntosh) who has shown that she can beat everybody, versus the woman (Fairweather) who could well defeat all of them, at least in the future.

Welcome, then, to what is likely already four of the most over-hyped minutes in the Games' recent history.

*** *** ***

Just before the Rio Olympics, Ledecky, still a teen, was considered unbeatable. She was so ahead of the rest of the pack, that a piece in the *New York Times* began a feature like this. "The question," they had written, "is not whether Katie Ledecky will win. But by how much?"

The generational talent was like an orca in the pool in Brazil as she decimated the competition in front of her. She entered into five events, won gold in four of them and set new world marks in two of them. To underline her dominance, there was an image just after she touched the wall to signal the end of the 800m freestyle final. She clocked 8:04.79 — silver-medallist Jazmin Carlin wasn't even past the halfway mark of the last lap. That winning image showed her all alone, waiting for the other athletes to finish, almost looking bored. There was this allure, a myth when it came to describing her feats. Journalists frequently fell into the trap as they tried to overdramatise, perhaps rightly. At a select phone conference where this newspaper was present, one of the questions she was asked was: "Do you feel sorry for your rivals? Because there is an embarrassing distance between you and them."

The US swimmer, who picked up her first global gold when she was 15 (London Games), didn't know how to react so she laughed. "I don't know how to answer that," she said after collecting her thoughts. "I don't really pay attention to the distance. I'm always trying to put together my fastest race. You can only control what you can control..."

What made her Rio achievements that bit special was cornering glory in the two middle-distance events and the one long-distance event (200m, 400m, 800m). She combined speed plus endurance, a devastating cocktail and other swimmers couldn't live with that duopoly (she's also gun at the 1500m free and won the Olympic gold when it was introduced for women in Tokyo).

Two years later, at the Pan Pacs in Tokyo, Titmus had her first brush with Ledecky and, by extension, immortality. The US athlete kept her crown in the 400m — at this point she was yet to lose an international final in this distance — but Titmus had become the third woman in history to breach four minutes. If that was the teaser, July 21, 2019, was the red-letter day. The young Australian shark had taken down the orca. In the 400m final at the Worlds in South Korea, Ledecky tasted her first-ever defeat in an international final across this distance. For so long, the Maryland-born swimmer had only raced herself; her only competition, a record she had set in a previous event.

After seven years at the top, a question. Put it this way. Was this going to be swimming's Robin Soderling d. Rafa Nadal at the French Open in 2009 moment? Or was Titmus here to stay? The Olympic final in 2020 couldn't come fast enough. It lived up to the hype with a pandemic sandwiched between for good measure. Titmus took on the queen of world swimming and swam past her when the finish line was in sight.

She came for the queen's throne. She didn't miss.

In that same final, a 15-year-old finished fourth after leading the field at the first turn. McIntosh. While the US have produced Olympic and world swimming champions at the drop of a hat, it has been relatively quiet North of the border. In fact, out of the 55 Olympic medals they have won in the sport, 18 came at either Montreal in 1976 or Los Angeles eight years later. The next batch of 18 was split between eight Summer Games from Seoul in 1988 to Rio in 2016.

This lull period has ended thanks to a couple of generational athletes. Penny Oleksiak, the country's most decorated Olympian with seven medals across three Games, took them on this path. While the 24-year-old free and fly specialist will be in Paris, the link between the present and future will be provided by McIntosh, the daughter of Jill Horstead, a former fly specialist who medalled at the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

You can say there's some swimming DNA in the family. Even otherwise, this was going to be her calling. Growing up, Ledecky was her idol. She named her cat after another of her swimming idols. Mikey. Michael Phelps. She's already the owner of world records and glory at the international level (she is also a medley specialist) but global gold in this event would elevate her into an air reserved for legends.

The 17-year-old is already one of the very few swimmers to have beaten Ledecky in both the 400m and the 800m over the last eight months. In the 800m final at the US Swimming Southern Zone South Sectionals in Orlando in February, the US great finished second, her first defeat across this distance in almost 14 years. Around the same time, halfway across the globe, Fairweather made a splash and dashed to gold to send the already stacked 400m free competition into overdrive. Unlike the other three, the Kiwi has had a more measured rise. She was very much there in that same 400m final in Tokyo where she finished eighth. Since then, she made marginal improvements. A few metres here. A small fraction. Eating a few seconds there. Now, she's eyeing three of the biggest fishes in the pool.

*** *** ***

Set your alarms for 12.22 AM IST on July 28. Contact your electricity board in advance. And/or double-check if your internet is working. Four of the five fastest (the fifth, Federica Pellegrini, is retired) across this distance will likely be on Lanes 3, 4, 5 and 6 come the opening night of the Olympics. In the City of Lights, who will walk away with the aura?

NAME & TIME TO SET NEW/ OLD WORLD RECORD

- **Katie Ledecky** - 3:56.46s &
- **Summer McIntosh** - 3:56.08s #
- **Ariarne Titmus** - 3:55.38s *
- Existing world record
- & World record from 2016 to 2022
- # World record from March to July 2023

5 Only five women in history have gone under 4 minutes in the history of this event. Barring an upset, four of the five (the fifth, Federica Pellegrini, retired) will be in the final.

Recent World Championship and Olympics results

- **2019** — Titmus beat Ledecky in the final
- **2021** — Titmus beat Ledecky in the final (McIntosh 4th and Fairweather 8th)
- **2022** — Ledecky beat McIntosh in the final (Titmus absent)
- **2023** — Titmus beat Ledecky in the final (Fairweather 3rd and McIntosh 4th)
- **2024** — Fairweather won (Titmus, Ledecky and McIntosh absent)

2021 All four featured in this event at the Tokyo Games where Titmus took down Ledecky to win gold. Ledecky won silver, with McIntosh finishing fourth and Fairweather eighth.

SEINE FROM PARIS

Neeraj's adductor is fine: Coach Bartonietz

NEW DELHI: The adductor niggle that has troubled Neeraj Chopra in the past couple of months 'is fine' now and the reigning Olympic champion has entered the high intensity phase of his preparations, his German coach Klaus Bartonietz said, dismissing concerns surrounding the Indian star's fitness. "At the moment, no issue with that (adductor niggle), it's fine, it looks good," said the coach.

Wounded photojournalist carries Oly torch

VINCENNES: A Lebanese photojournalist who was severely wounded during an Israeli strike on south Lebanon carried Sunday the Olympic torch in Paris to honour journalists wounded and killed in the field. The torch relay, which started in May, is part of celebrations in which about 10,000 people from various walks of life were chosen to carry the flame across France.

BCCI to provide ₹8.5 crore to IOA for Oly

NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Sunday announced financial assistance to the Paris Olympics-bound Indian athletes, contributing ₹8.5 crore to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for their campaign. The Paris Games will begin from July 26. As many as 117 athletes will represent India at the Paris Olympics.

Paris' security precautions and privacy concerns

JOHN LEICESTER @ Paris

A YEAR ago, the head of the Paris Olympics boldly declared that France's capital would be " the safest place in the world " when the Games open this Friday. Tony Estanguet's confident forecast looks less far-fetched now with squadrons of police patrolling Paris' streets, fighter jets and soldiers primed to scramble, and imposing metal-fence security barriers erected like an iron curtain on both sides of the River Seine that will star in the opening show.

France's vast police and military operation is in large part because the July 26-Aug. 11 Games face unprecedented security challenges. The city has repeatedly suffered deadly extremist attacks and international tensions are high because of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Paris, in short, has a lot riding on keeping 10,500 athletes and millions of visitors safe. Here's how it aims to do it. A Games-time force of up to 45,000 police and gendarmes is also backed up by a 10,000-strong contingent of soldiers that has set up the largest military camp in Paris since World War II, from which soldiers should be able to reach any of the city's Olympic venues within 30 minutes.

Police check people before entering a security perimeter near the Eiffel Tower | AP

Armed military patrols aboard vehicles and on foot have become common in crowded places in France since gunmen and suicide bombers acting in the names of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group repeatedly struck Paris in 2015. For visitors from countries where armed street patrols aren't the norm, the sight of soldiers with assault rifles might be jarring, just as it was initially for people in France.

"At the beginning, it was very strange for them to see us and they were always avoiding our presence, making a detour," said Gen. Éric Chasboeuf, deputy commander of the counter-terror military force, called Sentinelle. "Now, it's in the landscape," he said.

France is also getting help from more than 40 countries that, together, have sent at least 1,900 police reinforcements.

Campaigners for digital rights worry that Olympic surveillance cameras and AI systems could erode privacy and other freedoms, and zero in on people without fixed homes who spend a lot of time in public spaces. Saccage 2024, a group that has campaigned for months against the Paris Games, took aim at the scope of the Olympic security, describing it as a "repressive arsenal" in a statement to The Associated Press. *AP*

From Delhi club to stepping up for Nepal in Asia Cup, Puja's journey

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

ON Sunday evening, coach Shravan Kumar was in a hurry to get back home in Delhi. He did not want to miss his pupil — Nepal's Puja Mahato — batting against Pakistan in the ongoing Women's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka. Shravan reached in time to applaud Mahato when she walked out to bat in Dambulla.

At that time, the scoreboard read 40/4, with 10.4 overs to go. Mahato, along with Kabita Johi (31 n.o), put her foot down and slowly revived the innings. She scored 25 from 32 balls as Nepal finished with 108/6 in 20 overs.

Nepal might have lost by nine wickets, but on the day Mahato helped Nepal put up a fight. Shravan, the coach who has trained the likes of Ishant Sharma and Harshit Rana, remembers the first time she came to him for training at Rohtak road, Gymkhana Club. "She started coming for training with me when she was in school," Kumar told this daily. "When she started I told her she could join but I would not take any money from her. She used to stay near my coaching centre. So there was no long commute for her and I think it worked for Puja well. Initially, I thought she was from Bihar, but then she told me that her family is from Nepal. I suggested she give it a shot, maybe she can play for the national side there. I think it is the coach's responsibility to tell players what is better for them," the coach mentioned.

Puja Mahato | ACC

Mahato made her international debut for Nepal in the Women's T20 Quadrangular Series in Malaysia last year, which her team won. Earlier this year when Mahato and Rubina Chetry added a partnership of 166 runs against Maldives in the Women's Premier Cup organised by the Asian Cricket Council. To date, it is the highest partnership for the fifth wicket in women's cricket, while the highest for Nepal.

That win helped Nepal reach the semi final of the Premier Cup, which ultimately sealed their spot in the ongoing Asia Cup. In their first outing, Nepal beat UAE to register their first-ever win in the Asia Cup on Friday. Samjhana Khadka's 72 helped Nepal get over the line as Mahato watched her senior partner hit winning runs from the nonstriker's end.

Against Pakistan, a full-member nation, nerves did come in for the associate nation side, but Mahato held her own in the middle. "I saw her batting today. I feel like she would have done better with the bat against Pakistan. I have seen her perform better before so I know how well she can bat." The result might not have gone Nepal's way but Kumar is proud of the work Mahato has put in to reach that level. Nepal's next fixture is against India on Tuesday. **Brief scores:** Nepal 108/6 in 20 ovs (Joshi 31, Mahato 25; Iqbal 2/19) **lost to** Pakistan 110/1 in 11.5 ovs (Feroza 57, Ali 46); India 201/5 in 20 ovs (Kaur 66, Ghosh 64 n.o.) **bt** UAE 123/7 in 20 ovs (Egodage 40 n.o.; Sharma 2/23).

EXPRESS READ

Indian boys and girls' teams in World Junior Squash quarters

HOUSTON: Indian boys and girls moved into the quarterfinals in the team event of the World Junior Squash Championships here to set up a clash with higher-ranked South Korea and Malaysia respectively. The boys beat Canada 2-0 in the pre-quarterfinals, while the girls will take on third-seeded Malaysia after finishing second in Group D, following their loss to Hong Kong 1-2.

Paes, Amritraj inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame

NEWPORT: Legendary Indian tennis players, Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj, the heroes of many a historic triumph transcending generations, became the first two exponents of the sport from Asia to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame. Paes, 51, whose list of achievements include the 1996 Atlanta Olympics men's singles bronze, was given the rare honour in the 'Player Category'.

Bhambri wins ATP Tour tournament doubles title

GSTAAD (SWITZERLAND): India's Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivett clinched the men's doubles title at the Swiss Open ATP Tour tennis tournament with a hard-fought win over Ugo Humbert and Fabrice Martin in the final. The pair of Bhambri and Olivett, seeded third in the ATP 250 clay court tournament beat their French opponents 3-6, 6-3, 10-6 to win the title.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

New Zealand is home to eight universities — all ranked within the top 500 universities in the world. As per QS World Ranking 2025, all eight NZ universities come in the top 3% of higher education institutions. Check the varsity and ranks

University of Auckland	Rank 65
University of Otago	Rank 214
University of Waikato	Rank 235
Massey University	Rank 239
Victoria University of Wellington	Rank 244
University of Canterbury	Rank 261
Lincoln University	Rank 371
Auckland University of Technology	Rank 412

WHAT AFTER?

Explore your employment and immigration opportunities at NZ

PART-TIME JOBS

While you're pursuing your higher education in New Zealand, you have the right to work for up to 20 hours as a mode of extra income

POST-STUDY WORK RIGHTS

Depending on your education level, you get an allowance to work in NZ after your degree on a study visa. For example, at a degree level, you can work up to three years. While for a one-year diploma course, you only get one year of work allowance

IMMIGRATION AND PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

- If permanent residence is what you seek, you can check the 'green list' on NZ's immigration website.
- The Green List is a list of a limited number of highly skilled roles that are in shortage in New Zealand.
- This fast tracks the process of getting a residence and work to residence opportunity.

AN EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE, HANDS-ON TRAINING, FLEXIBLE AND STUDENT-FRIENDLY CURRICULUM PAIRED WITH A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE PRESENCE OF INDIAN DIASPORA ARE FACTORS THAT MAKE NEW ZEALAND APPEALING TO INDIAN STUDENTS, FINDS SAUMYANGI YADAV

THE NEW ZEALAND WAY OF EDUCATION

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand capital packs a lot of cool into its 2km wide centre

IF you are looking for the right destination that matches your study abroad goals, but want to look beyond higher education hotspots — the US, UK, Canada and Australia — you might want to explore educational institutes in New Zealand (NZ). The island country is quickly becoming more and more popular among Indian students when it comes to higher education.

Why? We explore a few aspects behind the increase in demand for education in NZ with Geoff Bilbrough, General Manager Marketing & Communications, Education New Zealand. He also provides insights into visa rejection rates, immigration and employment policies in the country.

Here are excerpts from our conversation.

● In 2023, 10% of international students enrolled in New Zealand were from India. What according to you attracts Indian students to New Zealand?

The first reason is obviously the quality of education. Our universities and educational organisations are well ranked. All of our eight universities are in the top 3% of the QS World University Rankings. The education here is very hands-on and practical. There is an emphasis on independent learning, to think for yourself. Our education system is not so strict on learning in a specific order. There is an opportunity for much more free-thinking and critical thinking as part of learning.

Apart from this, New Zealand offers a very relaxed lifestyle to the students. So, while you get to experience a different kind of education, you also get to experience a new culture by living in a new place. We have noticed that students who come to study in New Zealand enjoy both of those factors.

We also have a sizeable Indian diaspora. So, students can access their places of worship, they are likely to find the food that they like, and they can get the ingredients that they want from Indian supermarkets — not exactly like at home, but definitely similar.

> *Our education system empowers the young to learn in the way that they want to learn*
>
> Geoff Bilbrough, General Manager Marketing and Communications, Education New Zealand

● Are there any international and diplomatic reasons for the increase in the number of Indian students enrolling in New Zealand?

It is clear that we have a strong diplomatic relationship between the two governments. Education NZ runs a conference every year for its sector and this year, India is our country of honour at the conference. So, we are really pleased to be able to do that.

Also, recently, we sent a delegation of universities to India. We have been sending and helping our providers visit India, and meet Indian students, Indian agents, and representatives of Indian universities. This year, our Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters was also in India along with a delegation of business persons. So clearly, there is a strong relationship between the two countries and it is very helpful for us when we want to raise awareness about education in New Zealand.

● On the other hand, visa rejection rates rose to 40 per cent last year, a jump from 28 per cent in 2022. Between January and April 2024, as many as 2,010 out of 5,018 study visa applications of Indian students were rejected. Is this a natural consequence of increased applicants, or is there a specific reason?

The period mentioned here — between January and April — is a time when visa rejection rates are usually higher, as the peak number of applications start coming in by October until January. However, if you take a step back, and look at the year 2023, you will notice that the approval rate was actually closer to 60 per cent for Indian visas. The important point is that the student must demonstrate that they are coming for an educational experience. It's really important to make it clear that you are really going to study in New Zealand and understand what courses you're going to study and why you want to study that.

Secondly, it's important that you show your financial viability to study and live in New Zealand. So, these are the two points that you should make clear in your visa applications.

The government's policy in New Zealand is that the student must come for the education experience. In the announcement they made it clear that it is not a pathway to residency, it is an opportunity to come and learn and study in New Zealand.

● What are the benefits of studying in New Zealand for Indian students? Outside education, what does life in New Zealand look like for Indian students?

What I think stands out about New Zealand are the people. I have to say that being a New Zealander, we're very welcoming people, really friendly. That's part of our culture.

And in te reo M ori (language), we talk about Manaakitanga (hospitality and generosity) — that's the concept of welcoming people into your home, and caring for them while they're here. We also are a country you can explore. It's safe. There are no snakes. There are no alligators. So, it's a safe environment. It is also a very liberal, progressive space that students often seek.

We have a beautiful environment, it's an opportunity to explore and as I said before, our education system really empowers young people to learn in the way that they want to learn. They can choose the subjects that they'd like to study, they have an opportunity to be active in their learning and to develop critical thinking skills that are applicable in any role all over the world.

● New Zealand's policy of shutting off borders because of COVID-19 has hurt international student enrollment. How is New Zealand attempting to recover from that loss?

In New Zealand, our policies post-COVID pandemic have been perhaps a little bit more measured. So, we haven't seen the huge numbers of students come back in the way that the US, Australia and Canada did. So, while our recovery is going really well, it's at a much more considered pace. We do not have the exact numbers right now but I can indicate that we are about 50 or 60% back to where we were pre-pandemic, and that's quite a good number for us to be.

It has enabled our sector to recover and build up its capability alongside the number of students who visit. And within that sort of growth, the university sector has done particularly well. We're very pleased with how the universities have recovered. And we're also pleased that there is a good number of students from India coming in again.

COURSES THAT CHART SUCCESS STORIES

As per inputs from Education New Zealand, these are the areas that Indian students are especially interested in:

Computer Science

Electronic Engineering

Information Technology

Business

Nursing and Hospitality

> *TOEFL boasts a 100% acceptance rate in New Zealand. Also, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and UK are key focus markets for us. The average TOEFL score in New Zealand universities is 80 and there are a few universities wanting a 79. We encourage everybody to take up that challenge and go to New Zealand*
>
> Omar Chihane, Global Head at TOEFL iBT

The Land of the Kiwis: Majestic and Diverse

Moving to a land that speaks of an amalgamation of a culture of the Indigenous and the settlers, NZ is ever welcoming

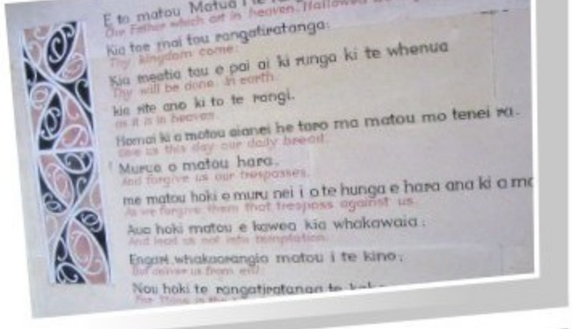
1 In 1898, politician William Pember Reeves authored an influential history of New Zealand, known to the Māori as Ao-tea-roa or 'the Land of the White Long Cloud'. This name, Aotearoa, refers to the cloud formations that guided early Polynesian navigators to the country.

2 The current flag design, with the four stars of the Southern Cross on a blue background along with the Union Jack in the canton, has been in use since 1902. The four stars on the New Zealand flag represent the four brightest stars in the Southern Cross constellation, known as the Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta Crucis.

3 The New Zealand coat of arms, first adopted in 1911 and revised in 1956, symbolises the nation's bicultural identity with a European female figure on one side and a Māori rangatira (chief) on the other. The central shield features symbols representing New Zealand's trade, agriculture, and industry. The fern, a popular symbol of nationhood, and the crown, indicating the country's status as a constitutional monarchy, are also depicted.

4 New Zealand is one of only two countries in the world, alongside Denmark, to have two official national anthems of equal status. The traditional anthem, *God Save the King*, is typically reserved for royal and viceregal events. In contrast, *God Defend New Zealand*, is more commonly performed at events emphasising New Zealand's national identity, such as sports events, where it is sung in both English and Māori.

5 In 1987, Māori was recognised as New Zealand's second official language, granting it the same legal status as English. The Ngāi Tahu tribe's traditional name for New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki, holds equal status with its other name, Mt Cook. In 2000, the first bilingual road sign was installed near Temuka in South Canterbury to guide travellers to the mountain.



6 Waitangi Day, observed on February 6 to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, is regarded as New Zealand's National Day. Commemorations are centred in Waitangi but take place across the country. Public celebrations feature Māori ceremonies alongside sporting events, music, and parades.

Did you know

THESE FACTS ABOUT NEW ZEALAND?

7 New Zealand co-hosted the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987, winning with their national team, the All Blacks. They also hosted the seventh World Cup in 2011. Each All Blacks match begins with the players performing the *Ka Mate haka*, a traditional Māori chant with rhythmic movements, stamping, and fierce gestures.

8 New Zealand became the first country in the world to grant women the right to vote in 1893, well ahead of most other nations. Isn't that cool?

9 Did you know that New Zealand is home to Middle Earth? Thanks to the popularity of *The Lord of the Rings* saga, New Zealand is the only country permitted to feature hobbits on its legal tender! It's also the exclusive location where you can visit The Hobbiton Movie set!

10 The town with the longest name in the world is in New Zealand! Don't be surprised by it Taumata whakatangihan

— Compiled by ***Lovely Majumdar***

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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22.07.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Indian flag adopted

In 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India decided that the tricolour, with the Ashoka wheel in blue embossed on it will be adopted as the National Flag

MEANING OF THE COLOURS

Saffron shows strength and courage, white indicates peace and truth with Dharma Chakra depicting the wheel of the law, and green shows fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land

RESOLUTION

Rajendra Prasad chaired the session. Nehru rose to move the resolution. The record says, "The motion was adopted, the whole Assembly standing"

A SYMBOL OF PEACE

Gandhi suggested adding a white band denoting peace the communities living in India, and a spinning wheel to symbolise the country's progression

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

A still from the musical

OF REVIVALS, RETELLINGS & REVELATIONS

Over two decades after it premiered, theatre artiste Lillete Dubey has revived her passion project, *Jaya! The Victory*, a modern rendition of the *Mahabharata*, coming to the city on August 2

POOJA DAS

YOU have seen it multiple times. On television. In movies. Whether it be wrapped in modern political intrigue like *Raajneeti* (2010) or a futuristic sequel with the recent *Kalki 2898 AD*, the source of it all is but one. If you still haven't guessed it, it's the *Mahabharata* – the epic tale of Kauravas and Pandavas fighting for land. But despite the multiple renditions, veteran theatre artiste and director Lillete Dubey is confident that her upcoming musical production *Jaya! The Victory* is a completely fresh take on the epic. "The whole vision of it is very different from anything you've seen. Of course, we know the story, but the way it's written is very interesting. It's not like the TV shows anyone has seen before. Even the costumes are very modern, reimagining the epic. The whole look is Greek tragedy meeting [rock opera] *Jesus Christ Superstar*," says Dubey.

Jaya! The Victory first premiered in 1998, but could only run for a short while and had to close down prematurely. "We only managed to do about 40 shows, and then some tragedy struck. It was always on the back-burner to revive it. Because I invested so much into it, I wasn't willing to let it go. I kept saying I'd revive it for the 20th or 25th year. Then Covid happened. But a year and a half ago, I decided to do it and I decided to redo all the music from scratch." The play's two-hour original music score runs non-stop from start to finish, with live singing throughout. "It's tough to compose and arrange. Different characters have different music, and different scenes have a different mood but at the end, it has to be melded into a composite whole. Putting it all together took months," she says.

Featuring rock music with mantras and Krishna's flute, the musical is performed with a modern-contemporary feel. "It has that Indian flavour but it's fully in English," notes Dubey. The narrative of the production is presented through the eyes of Yudhishthira, the eldest Pandava brother, as he reflects on the key events that lead to the eventual downfall.

The relevance of the *Mahabharata*, even in a contemporary setting, was a driving force behind the revival. Dubey reflects on how the story's themes of power, greed, and human emotion resonate even today. "While working on it now, I kept thinking about Ukraine, Russia, and Gaza. Man's need for power, greed, and desire to conquer are still relevant. That's why these epics constantly resonate; at the heart of it, it's about the human condition, which in many ways does not change," she explains.

Reviving *Jaya! The Victory* was not without its challenges. "Reinventing and re-visualising the show was not easy. The scenes, like the war sequences, were challenging but such scenes are also the ones that are exciting to design once you manage to crack them," she adds.

(Jaya! The Victory will be showcased at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on August 2, 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets starting at ₹1,000, available on bookmyshow.com)

PLANT PARADISE

PICS: GAYATRI SREEKESH

Bengalureans soaked in the vibrant vibes of The Namu Recommends Vegan Market – Monsoon Edition, held at Chamara Vajra over the weekend. With over 120 brands, visitors dived into a smorgasbord of vegan goodies, munched at live food stalls, and more.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor
(@aslamgafoor) is a seasoned hospitality professional with a rich background in business development, sales, and marketing with renowned hotels and F&B companies. With an unwavering passion for food, travel, and wines, he takes great delight in sharing his insights and experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucity express@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first-prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,000 from Thelagram - JP Nagar**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Tamarillo 2) Açaí
3) Carambola

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Rani S 2) Prabhu Das
3) Suja Vijayakumar

XPRESS FOCUS

Training Workshop and Free distribution of Sewing Machines to Selected Cab Driver Families by Omega

Leading employee transportation company Omega recently hosted a workshop to educate cab drivers on discipline, punctuality, cleanliness, time management, and professionalism. The workshop included discussions and demonstrations on traffic regulations, safety, professional duties, vehicle maintenance, and more.

Free sewing machines distribution

Following the workshop, free sewing machines were distributed to the families of chosen cab drivers. The aim was to help the beneficiaries become financially stable and support their families.

Support for Drivers' Welfare

Omega's endeavour for the welfare of its drivers is evident through previous initiatives, such as the distribution of free medical kits, uniforms and essentials like first aid boxes, umbrellas, torches, and other necessities.

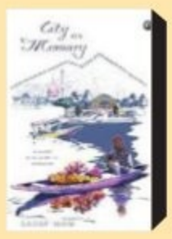
A few months ago, Omega distributed scholarships for selected drivers' children (PUC, Degree, B.E, MBBS students).

Recognition for Excellence

Omega has been recognised as the Most Promising Company for Employee Transportation and Car Rental in Bengaluru at the Nationwide Awards 2023. Headquartered in the city, Omega operates nationwide, providing comprehensive transportation solutions tailored to the needs of corporate clients. Services include car hire, car rental, airport transfers, daily employee transportation and metro shuttle service.

For details visit www.omegacabs.in

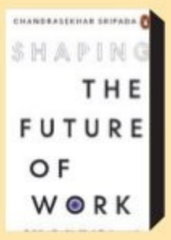
BOOK NOOK



City as Memory

By Sadaf Wani

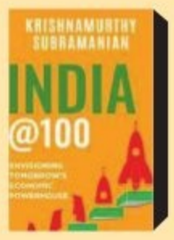
The author draws from her childhood experiences in the mid-'90s amid a waning insurgency movement and increasing militarization in Kashmir, as well as her adolescence in the early 2000s during cycles of violence in the wake of civilian protests.



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WORK

by Chandrasekhar Sripada

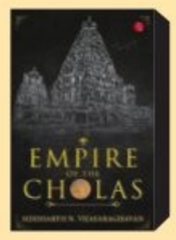
Addresses the challenges of building an inclusive human capital framework but also highlights some unconventional ideas around work and models of employment that can create this much-needed inclusion.



India @100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse

By Krishnamurthy Subramanian

It explores this once-in-several-centuries opportunity knocking on India's doors. With a bold vision grounded in Indian realities, India@100 argues compellingly that India is at an inflection point that cannot be ignored.



Empire of the Cholas

By Siddharth N Vijayaraghavan

It narrates the legend of the construction of the Big Temple in Thanjavur and the Chola Empire. Weaving together the fictional and the factual, it creates a tapestry that promises to captivate and enthral.

SEA WORLD

A father-daughter duo explore the wonders of the ocean at a pop-up aquarium in JP Nagar over the weekend | GAYATRI S REEKESH

QUICKFIX

CAPRESE SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- **Tomato:** 4, ripe
- **Fresh mozzarella cheese:** 1 pound
- **Fresh basil leaves**
- **Extra virgin olive oil:** 2 tbsp
- **Balsamic glaze:** 2 tbsp
- **Salt and pepper to taste**

METHOD

- Slice the tomatoes and mozzarella into 1/4-inch-thick slices.
- Arrange tomato and mozzarella slices alternately on a platter, tucking basil leaves between them.
- Drizzle it with olive oil and a balsamic glaze.
- Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste, then serve.

Contributed by **Lavanya S**, Chennai

ASK AN XPERT

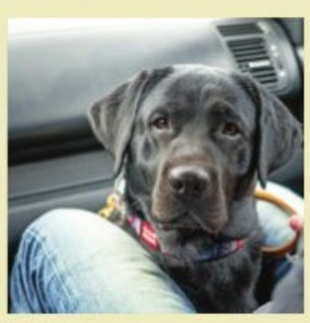
DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

What are the risks or things to keep in mind while travelling with a pet dog in warm weather?

It's nice to know that you are planning quality time with your pet. In such hot and humid weather, one must follow certain precautions while travelling with their poochies. Try to start your journey early in the morning. Make him travel with an empty stomach and keep feeding him some easily digestible items like curd, chicken soup, and cottage cheese whey (limited portions) through the journey. Yes, AC must be kept switched on if the pet is inside the car. Animals' body temperatures tend to rise with travel, and with ambient temperatures reaching levels that threaten life, we must take the utmost caution while travelling.



FITBIT

URDHVA MUKHA SVANASANA VARIATION

(UPWARD FACING DOG POSE VARIATION)

This is a beginner-level prone position variation of the base pose Urdhva Mukha Svanasana (Upward Facing Dog Pose). The practitioner aligns the feet on the floor while the upper abdomen, chest, neck, thighs, and legs are raised in a soft backbend. The palms are placed on the floor without pressure, and the hands are gently bent at the elbows. This pose is a component of Classic Sun Salutation Variation V. It is considered a warm-up yoga pose to prepare the body for more intense yoga poses and yoga flows.

STEPS

- Lie on your stomach with your face down, breathe deeply, and relax your spine.
- Place your palms close to your chest on the floor.
- Ensure that your arms and elbows are aligned close to the body.
- Stretch your feet behind, keeping the toes and heels together. Tighten your legs and lower your back as you breathe. Use your palms for support and inhale.
- Exhale. Inhale and lift your chest, shoulders, and upper abdomen. Raise and take your body backward, keeping your arms straight.
- Ensure that your pelvis, upper thighs, and legs are firm on the floor, retaining your feet on the mat in a foot curl. Exhale. This is Bhujangasana.
- Raise your head and look straight. Stay in this position with slow, rhythmic breathing.
- Keep your shoulders aligned.
- Inhale. Exhale and bend your arms at the elbows. This is Bhujangasana Elbows Bent.
- Inhale and raise your legs off the floor. Keep your feet aligned on the mat. This is the Urdhva Mukha Svanasana Variation.
- Roll back your shoulders away from the ears and down. Stay in the pose as per capacity.
- To release, slowly bring the legs, abdomen, chest, neck, and face down. Then release the full pose, relax your spine through deep breathing, and go back to Makarasana.

BENEFITS

- Gives a gentle backstretch to the spine.
- This pose tones the legs and the lower back.
- Acts as a moderate chest opener and helps regulate the breath.
- Increases the flexibility of the body.
- Aids with the functioning of digestive organs.
- Helps in healing lungs and respiratory disorders like asthma and allergies.
- Increases blood circulation in the body.
- Helps relieve the leg from sciatica pain by softening the spinal impingement.
- Helps with Kundalini awakening, which infuses the muscles and body with extreme strength.
- Keeps the seven chakras of the body balanced.

LIMITATIONS

- Students who have recently undergone surgeries or have injuries to their knees, hips, spine, wrist, ankle, or shoulder, or have cervical spondylosis, carpal tunnel syndrome, scoliosis, kyphosis, or acute lumbar spondylitis, have weak joints and body frames, or are heart patients, should avoid this pose.
- Pregnant women and seniors should avoid this.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

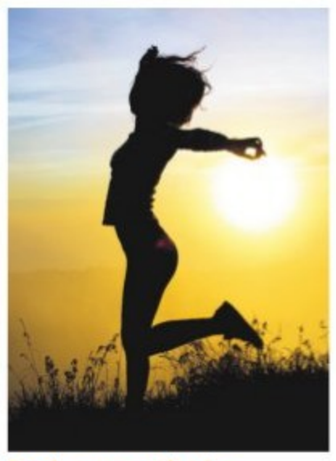
HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures

bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

@xpress_bengaluru

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



Finding your Rhythm

Tired of routine workouts? Join this fitness workshop, revolutionising your fitness journey, with a fusion of Zumba, aerobics, and more.

WHEN: July 22, 8pm
WHERE: New York Dance Classes, BTM
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Seafood Fiesta

Pan-Asian food lovers, attend this seafood festival featuring a selection of seafood dishes from fish to squid and lobster. Enjoy signature dishes like Thai fish cake, honey walnut shrimp, and stir-fried octopus in tobanjan sauce. Indulge in this celebration of Southeast Asian flavours.

WHEN: Till July 31, 12pm onwards
WHERE: Chowman, all outlets
DETAILS: 1800-890-2150

Comedy Bites

Enjoy coffee, cupcakes, and crusty sandwiches with a side of standup comedy.

WHEN: July 22, 7.30pm
WHERE: Glen's Bakehouse, Kalyan Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Yoga Day Out

This prenatal yoga class will provide expectant mothers with a gentle approach to maintaining fitness and relaxation during pregnancy. **WHEN:** July 22, 12.30pm **WHERE:** Casa Karaoke, JP Nagar **CALL:** 8088651810

Stories to Tell

Children's storytelling session for ages 4-8: Join an enchanting journey through tales and adventures at this local library.

WHEN: July 22, 5pm
WHERE: Tiny Dots 4 Brainy Tots, Jayanagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

DJ Night

Let loose and groove on the dance floor for this Bollywood Night as you enjoy an evening of rhythm, celebration, and joy.

WHEN: July 22, 7pm
WHERE: Toca Brigade, Brigade Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Mystery Escapes

Embark on a thrilling race against time, where teams must employ logic, solve puzzles, and uncover clues within themed rooms to escape within 60 minutes, demonstrating the formidable power of teamwork under pressure.

WHEN: July 22, 7pm
WHERE: Mystery Rooms, HAL 2nd Stage
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ART CORNER

CLOSE TO THE CLOUDS

Photographer and watercolourist Kunal Batra shoots what interests him at that moment. This building is a part of his collection of walks through Himalayan landscapes.

While we admire art kept in museums or sculptures and monuments built centuries ago, here we turn the spotlight on art that is made only to be destroyed

TO PRESERVE IMPERMANENCE

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

SUCCESSIVE centuries have wrecked cultures, ideologies and communities. What often remained at the end of any catastrophic storm was the art that civilisations left behind. From the eroding paintings on ancient cave walls, the towering pyramids of exotic Egypt and the masterpieces that mesmerise us from museum walls, it is only art that has lived long after its creators have vanished.

It may surprise you to know then, that there are artworks that are primarily made with the sole intention of disappearing over time. Artists have always challenged conventions. The traditional idea of the permanence of art too has been questioned and art with expiry dates have often been created. There have also been a multitude of traditional art forms founded on the notion of impermanence.

Tradition transformed

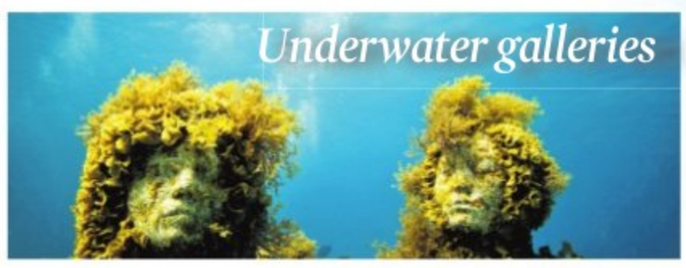
The ritualistic art form of Kalamezhuthu, practiced in Kerala, is said to have originated in the Chola dynasty. This painting in bright colours which has been inspired by the Kerala mural tradition, is done on the floor. A Kalamezhuthu painting begins at a predetermined time and is usually done by men. The patterns may vary but they all pay tribute to Hindu deities. The floor is prepared at first with a paste of rice powder and cow dung and the first line is drawn from east to west. The border lines are then made, colours filled and the painting is only complete when the eyes have been drawn at the end. The artist's palette consists of only five colours which represent the five elements of nature and are made from natural sources. The paintings are erased at the end of the ritual to symbolise the ephemeral nature of life itself.

Similarly, the Tibetan-Buddhist tradition of creating mandalas or geometric patterns that represents the cosmos, also focuses on the transitory nature of all existence. The coloured sand design is destroyed at the end, in keeping with the core beliefs of Buddhism that everything is impermanent. Even the destruction is highly ceremonial and is done in a certain order.

The humble kolam or rangoli that we adorn our thresholds with, at the crack of dawn, also does not last till the end of the day. Constantly treaded upon or washed away, their impermanence is acknowledged and new ones are drawn the next day.

Momentary graffitis

Graffiti artists are well aware that the fate of their creations is not in their hands. It could be destroyed, removed or disfigured by vandals. And yet, what drives graffiti and street artists to continue portraying their social commentary on city walls and buildings despite the uncertain future of their painstakingly made works? Anonymous artist Banksy's graffiti's pop up in unimaginable public locations, boldly proclaiming his messages of social and political relevance. What happens then, after Banksy sprays a wall? In many cases, they have been accidentally removed, and sometimes, they have been painted over by authorities. Many have been taken away by private collectors. However famous an artist may be, the illegality of graffiti art stemming from the fact that it is always done on public property without the consent of the authorities or the rightful owners, unfortunately makes it a temporary art form.



Underwater galleries

The ocean bed has turned into galleries for many world famous sculptors. The sea may be an unusual choice but has helped to serve the message of transience for these artists. Sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor created the first underwater park in the world by installing sculptures that would develop into artificial coral reefs over time, in order to promote marine life and conserve the ocean. The natural reefs are also thus spared by diverting tourists away with this unique idea. These sculptures could be termed evolving pieces of art as the tidal movement constantly deforms their appearances and nature gradually colonises its core. Yet again, the message of environmental awareness has been the only focus while the durability of the artwork is irrelevant in this context.

Short-lived sculptures

Several artists have created sculptures that were meant to live short lives. Most are made with materials that do not last or transform along with the passing of time. There have been sculptures made of fruits with the viewers being allowed to take a fruit or two, thus modifying its form over time until it morphs into unintended shapes in the due course of time.

British artist, Anya Gallaccio works with materials that do not last beyond a few weeks. In her installation, Preserve Beauty, 2,000 red cut flowers were pressed against the wall using glass panes. Over the weeks, the flowers wilted and fell down onto the floor. The decay and their death was a part of the show. And then there are artists like the Japanese sculptor, Kishio Suga who intentionally make sculptures that are fragile and to be destroyed at the end of the show, only to be remade for the next exhibition.

The grains of sand

Sometimes, dire circumstances lead the way to the choices artists make. When acclaimed sand artist, Sudarsan Pattnaik decided to make sculptures on sand, it was not the philosophy of impermanence that drew him to the medium. It was simply because he did not have the means to buy canvases or paints as a child, and it was his penury that made him resort to this free of cost canvas by the long coastline of Odisha.

Impermanent art has pushed our traditional understanding of art in contemporary times. As the world progresses, perishable artworks that represent the moment are being conceived for immediate consumption. For as Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher stated almost 2,500 years ago, "There is nothing permanent except change."

NUGGETS

Family playcations at luxury hotel

Shangri-La Bengaluru, a luxury five-star hotel, is transforming weekends into family playcations with their new curated packages. Guests can enjoy themed rooms for children, luxurious Sunday brunches, and a vibrant array of kids' activities. The hotel offers a range of engaging activities at the Kids Club, from cooking classes to gardening workshops. Families can also relish a lavish brunch at b Café, featuring international cuisines and live cooking stations. The playcation packages, starting at ₹13,000++ per night, aim to create lasting memories for families, blending relaxation and fun in a luxurious setting. For more information, call 80451 26100.

Marathi culinary festival till July 31

ITC Windsor, Vasanth Nagar, is hosting the Platter of Dreams Festival, featuring authentic Maharashtrian cuisine till July 31 at Raj Pavilion. The festival showcases traditional dishes such as kothimbir wadi, mutton sukka, and puran poli, inspired by chef Vedant's Maharashtrian heritage. The menu includes two types of thali, offering a variety of local favourites made with seasonal ingredients and unique spice blends. Available for both lunch and dinner, the menu is priced at ₹2,199++. For more details, call 99160 75267.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. Krishnappa Kallola,** aged about 68 years, S/o Ramaiah Kallola and Nagamma Kallola, residing at No.266, Caroline Spring Layout, Anekal Taluk, Marasur, Bengaluru-562106 have changed my name from **Krishnappa Kailolla** to **Krishnappa Kallola** for all future purposes vide affidavit number IN-KA6411036-7797993W dated 19.07.2024 before Notary (D G Shanthappa)

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VIDYA, W/o. Amaran Arumugam, residing at #270, 5th Main Road, Viveknagar, Bengaluru 560047, have changed my name to **VIDYA SADANANDA RAO,** vide Affidavit Dated: 20/07/2024, sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRATIMA R ACHARYA (New Name), W/o. Rathish S Acharya, resident of address Flat No.F4 B Block, 36/2, Shivaganga Opal Apartment, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Bank of Baroda Colony, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from PRATIMA HANUMANT HABBU (Old Name) to PRATIMA R ACHARYA (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called PRATIMA R ACHARYA (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 20\07/2024, before Notary Mohammed Hussain K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHIDEEN**, S/o. Kothuwa Mohiddeen Syed Ali, Aged about 46 years, Residing at No. 1108, New No. 7/2, 1st Cross, Matekar Lane, Behind Arabic College, Bengaluru - 560 045, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MOHIDEEN SYED ALI** to **MOHIDEEN** vide affidavit dated 19.07.2024 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RUPA DASGUPTA** W/o Chiranjib Bhattacharyya, aged about 55 years, presently residing at 152, Block 1, HE Quarters, faculty Housing Road, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bengaluru 560 012. have changed my name from **Rupa Bhattacharyya** to **RUPA DASGUPTA.,** vide affidavit dated 16/7/2024 sworn to before G.Dayananda advocate and notary Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SALMA SULTHANA, D/o MOHAMMED USMAN. A,** aged about 28 years, residing at No.209, 3rd Main, Kasturinagar, Bangalore - 560016, have changed my name to **SALMA. U** vide Affidavit Dated: 10-07-2024, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public C.V. Earappa, Bangalore..

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUSHMA D V** aged 43 years, W/o Sri. Mahesh S. Hiregoudar, residing at: No. E 806, Mantri Tranquil, Gubbalala, Off Kanakapura Main Road, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061, hereby declare that my names **SUSHMA D V and SUSHMA HIREGOUDAR** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **SUSHMA D V** vide affidavit dated 16-07-2024 sworn to before notary S.R.Thulasikrishnai, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SUDHA MANJUNATHA REDDY, resident of No-114, Near Maramma Temple, Kanakapura Main Road, Thalaghattapura Post, Bengaluru 560109, have changed my name to **SUDHA** vide Affidavit Dated: 15-07-2024, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public Prakasha. C Bangalore..

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AHOBILESH MANJUNATHA VENKATA SAI** R/at No.95, 5th Cross, P and T Layout, Rachenahalli, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560077 have changed my name to **AHOBILESHA** vide affidavit dated: 19/7/2024 Before Notary **Sivakumara.M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JULIE BHARATH JAIN, W/o. T Bharath Kumar, residing at #9, Babli Kunj, Jain Temple Cross Road, V V Puram, Bengaluru 560004, have changed my name to **JULIE JAIN,** vide Affidavit Dated: 19/07/2024, sworn before Notary GANGARAJU.B.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHAKIL RAJ** son of Mahaveera Adhikari, Aged about 39 years, Residing at No. 81, Karnataka Jain Bhavan, KR Road, Shankarapuram, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHAKIL RAJ** to **HARSHAL RAJ** vide affidavit dated 11.7.2024 sworn to before P.N. Nagesha, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHWIN MENON**, Resident of No. 26 'ADEEP', 5th Cross, Golden Retreat Layout, Thanisandra, Bangalore - 560 077, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASHWIN P** to **ASHWIN MENON** vide affidavit dated 20.07.2024 sworn to before T.V. Chandra Shekara Reddy, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJESH KUMAR JAIN** S/o. Pyarelal, Residing at No 04, 3rd Cross, 9th Main, Near SM Food Palace, Sultanpalya, RT Nagar Post Bangalore-560032, have changed my name to **RAJESH KUMAR** vide Affidavit Dated: 20-07-2024, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public LEELA, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, M Muddumallamma M/O No. 15132006W Ex-Naik late Annesha S H presently residing at Kalidasanagar, VPO - Sira, Tehsil - Sira, Dist Tumakuru, Dist, Karnataka have changed my name from **M Muddumallamma to Muddumallamma** vide Affidavit dated 19/07/2024 before Gangaraju B N, Advocate and Notary, Bangalore.

ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ
ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚನ್ನಪಟ್ಟಣ ಟೌನ್, ಕುವೆಂಪುನಗರ, 8ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ (ಉತ್ತರ), ಮನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:2462/1, ಚನ್ನಪಟ್ಟಣ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಸುಮಾರು 26 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಅಂಬು.ಆರ್ ಬಿನ್ ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ ಎಮ್.ಹೆಚ್. ತಾಯಿ: ರೆಜಿ ಮಾಳ್ಳು ಆದ ನಾನು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ನಾನು ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಅಂಬು ಮೇರಿ .ಆರ್ ಎಂಬುದರ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಆಂಬು.ಆರ್ ಎಂದು ನೋಟರಿ ಎ.ಆರ್. ನಾಗೇಂದ್ರ ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇವರ ಮುಂದೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20-07-2024ರಂದು ಅಫಿಡವಿಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, submit that **VIJAY .K** and **VIJY .K** both are my names, I submit that my Adhar Card No. (770217089443) and all my documents, my name is entered as VIJAY .K but in my A/c No. 1012439444, Kotak Bank, Jakkasandra Branch, Bangalore, my name is entered VIJY .K Hence I declare that **VIJAY .K** and **VIJY .K** both are my name and both names are belonging to me. I am swearing to this affidavit before the Notary Puttaraju P, at Bidadi, It is used for Bank purpose only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No.10359927-P Rank Ex-HAV, BASAVARAJ MOOLIMANI, residing at No.1st BN KSRP, No.60, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560 025, have changed my minor Daughter's name from **(OLD NAME) YUKTA to (NEW NAME) YUKTA MOOLIMANI** Vide affidavit dated 20.07.2024 sworn before Notary G.Dayananda, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. SRI VENKATA ALEKHYA LINGALA,** W/o Sri Sumanth Lingala Mani, age 33 years, R/at No. 1414, 23rd Main Road, Near BDA Complex, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **Smt. SRI VENKATA ALEKHYA VIJJAPU** and **Smt. SRI VENKATA ALEKHYA LINGALA** are one and the same person and refers to me only, now I have changed my name to **Smt. SRI VENKATA ALEKHYA LINGALA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18th July 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN .K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHITHILA KUMARA**, son of Mahaveera Adhikari, Aged about 42 years, Residing at No. # 2/30, Varanga, Udupi Varanaga, Karnataka - 574 108, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHITHILA KUMARA** to **SHEETAL KUMAR JAIN** vide affidavit dated 11.7.2024 sworn to before P.N. Nagesha, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Vivek P.C.**, S/o. Chandrashekar P. N. aged about 38 years, R/at No 4/2, 3rd Cross, ITI Layout, Kathriguppe Main Road, Vidyapeetha Sathyanarayana swamy Temple Banashankari III Stage, Bangalore - 560 085. I have changed my minor Daughter **Shreeya V. Avadhani** (Old name) name as **VAISHNAVI V AVADHANI** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 28.05.2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravikumar V., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MARY FATIMA JACINTHA,** W/o Anthony, doing Housewife, aged 63 years, resident of No.35, 8th Main, 14th F Cross, T C Palya Main Road, Hoysala Nagar, Ramamurthynagar, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru- 560016, Karnataka, have changed my name to **A FATHI MARY JESINTHA** vide Affidavit Dated: 20-07-2024, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public K. Venkateshan, Bangalore..

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K Vasanta W/O No. 14499093K** Ex-Naik Ramachandra Reddy presently residing at Vill Yaranaganahalli, Post Peddapalli, Oorguam, KGF, Tehsil Bangarpet, Dist Kolar, State Karnataka have changed my name from **K Vasanta to Vasantha R** vide Affidavit dated 19/07/2024 before Advocate and Notary, A. IDINABBA. Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **A. SHANMUGA ANAND, S/o. ASOKAN SHANMUGAM,** aged about 39 years, residing at 26, VALLUVAR COLONY EXTENSION, THIRUMAL NAGAR, REDDIARPATTI, TAMIL NADU- 627007 have changed my name to **SHANMUGA ANAND ASOKAN** vide Affidavit Dated: 19-07-2024, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public Umamaheswary, Bangalore.

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

RACHANA INDER JOINS VAMSHI'S FIREFLY

The actor will play the role of Neha in the upcoming entertainer, produced by Niveditha Shivarajkumar

A SHARADHAA

YOUNG talent Vamshi is taking on dual roles as both actor and director in the upcoming film, *Firefly*, which is produced by Niveditha Shivarajkumar, daughter of the legendary Shivarajkumar. *Firefly* features a stellar star cast including notable names like Sudharani, Achyuth Kumar, and Sheetal Shetty.

Now, the makers have announced that Rachana Inder, known for her roles in films like Love Mocktail, Harikathe Alla Girikathe, Triple Riding, Love 360, and the latest Not Out, will be paired opposite Vamshi in *Firefly*. "Niveditha Shivrajkumar is doing an amazing job and has been a backbone for the entire team," said Rachana, adding, "I play Neha, who is a happy-go-lucky person, full of life, and loves to live in the present. I am eagerly waiting to watch this film, which will definitely be an entertainer. Vamshi has worked very hard in the film, which will hit the screens this Deepavali."

Firefly, which is co-directed by Jay Ramand, marks Vamshi's full-fledged debut as a hero. The film has cinematography by Abhilash Kalathi, music by Charan Raj, and dialogues by Raghu Niduvalli.

Vamshi and Rachana Inder

A youthful tale of first-bench students turning into last-bench rebels

A SHARADHAA

BACK BENCHERZ
Director: B R Rajshekar
Cast: Ranjan Narasimha, Jathin Aryan, Vikas, Namith, Manya Gowda, Chaturthi Raj, and Shashank Simha

3 IDIOTS (2009) left an indelible mark in Indian cinema, and went on to inspire countless filmmakers. Director B R Rajshekar, who shares that he has watched the Aamir Khan-lead film almost 50 times, draws from this well of inspiration for his latest venture, *Back Bencherz*. This film aims to rekindle the nostalgia of college life, and capture the essence of youthful rebellion and camaraderie with a unique crime twist.

Back Bencherz offers a fresh perspective on the familiar college caper genre, and tries to effectively balance humour, sentiment, and youthful rebellion to not just appeal to the current students but also hit the right notes with alumni riding on the wave of nostalgia.

Back Bencherz revolves around the lives of a group of final-year college students—Arya (Ranjan Narasimha), Kush (Jathin Aryan), Vikky (Vikas), and Naveen (Namith)—whose academic rigour is abruptly disrupted. The film opens with these students being brought into Kalasipalya Police Station, where Police Inspector Vasu (Aravind Kuplikar) accuses them of a grave crime: the rape and murder of a woman. Amidst their pleas of innocence, the students are coerced into recounting their story, which unfolds through a series of flashbacks.

Initially, Arya, Kush, Naveen, and Vikky are model students who are always immersed in their studies. However, a pivotal incident changes their trajectory. After a confrontation with a female lecturer, the college principal forces them to swap seats with troublemaking backbenchers. This change in seating marks a turning point; the frontbenchers, now relegated to the back, gradually become entangled in mischief. They start indulging in partying, drinking, and smoking, straying far from their academic focus.

As their behaviour becomes increasingly reckless, their lives spiral out of control, culminating in the police station incident. The film explores how these seemingly innocuous actions and a single decision can have significant consequences, challenging viewers to reflect on the impact of peer pressure and personal choices.

Back Bencherz provides a fresh take on the college genre by intertwining humour with a serious narrative. The story balances lighthearted moments with a deeper examination of youthful rebellion and responsibility, offering both entertainment and a thought-provoking commentary on student life.

With *Back Bencherz* channeling the nostalgic essence of academic days gone by rather than delivering a heavy-handed message, Rajashekhar crafts a whimsical tribute to the moments that define youth. The film, rated 'A' for its mature content and youthful exuberance, forgoes a traditional narrative structure in favour of a sequence of incidents—some charmingly engaging, others somewhat aimless.

However, the film occasionally stumbles with repetitive scenes and moments that can feel monotonous. The recurring shots of the young characters in small shorts might be a nod to the carefree spirit of youth, but their overuse becomes irksome. Additionally, the double entendre dialogues, while adding a playful edge, might not appeal to everyone.

Manya Gowda, Chaturthi Raj, and Shashank Simha bring a lively authenticity to the film. Suchendra Prasad, in a rare comedic turn, embodies a fun-loving role that mirrors the director's vision of youthful exuberance. Aravind Kuplikar, alongside emerging talents, delivers a performance that aligns well with the film's light-hearted tone. Their contributions add a genuine feel to the college setting, although the characters and plot sometimes lack depth.

Nakul Abhayankar's compositions and Manohar Joshi's cinematography enhance the film's vibrant college atmosphere. However, the film's length, despite being just over two hours, feels long and its appeal might not extend to more discerning viewers. Ranjan, who also edited the film, could have trimmed its length.

RATING 3/5

Back Bencherz excels in rekindling the carefree spirit of college days. Despite some hiccups, it offers a hearty dose of laughter and a playful reminder of youthful escapades. Ideal for a nostalgic movie night with friends, it joins the list of college dramas that has enough to transport you back to those unruly, unforgettable years.

Rakshit Shetty seeks anticipatory bail amid copyright infringement charges

Bachelor Party, produced by Paramvah Studios and directed by Abhijit Mahesh, stars Diganth, Yogi, and Achyuth Kumar

CE FEATURES

RAKSHIT Shetty's Paramvah Studios is facing copyright infringement charges for allegedly using two Kannada songs without proper rights in the film Bachelor Party. An FIR has been registered against the studio for unauthorised use of copyrighted material. In response, Rakshit Shetty has approached the City Civil and Sessions Court in Bengaluru, seeking anticipatory bail.

Naveen Kumar of MRT Music claims that the songs from the films Nyaya Ellide (1982) and Gaali Maathu (1981) were used without the necessary copyrights. In defence, Paramvah Studios shared an open letter on social media addressing the allegations.

In the open letter, Paramvah Studios included clips from the movie to show how the songs were used. They explained, "A schoolgirl sings one of the songs in her class during a scene, and a short clip of the second song plays on a TV in another scene." The studio clarified that they had approached MRT Music before the film's release, but the quoted price was too high and non-negotiable, leading to the current copyright infringement claim.

"Is this really copyright infringement?" the studio questioned. "If it is, what should we pay? We were quoted an exorbitant price by MRT. If it is not, how do we handle such harassment from music companies?"

To seek justice and clarity, Paramvah Studios has decided to fight the case in court. "Not just for us, but for every filmmaker who might face similar challenges. We hold your support close to our hearts as we navigate this issue," the letter mentioned.

Rakshit Shetty

Idu Entha Lokavayya confirms its release date

CE FEATURES

IN an exciting fusion of regional talent, noted Malayalam director Jeo Baby is presenting the Kannada film *Idu Entha Lokavayya*, directed by Sithesh C Govind, which is slated for release on August 9.

Jeo Baby, known for his powerful storytelling in Malayalam cinema with hits like The Great Indian Kitchen, and Kaathal - The Core which starred Mammootty and Jyotika, will bring his expertise to Kannada cinema with this project. His involvement highlights the growing collaboration between different regional film industries in India.

Idu Entha Lokavayya is a social satirical dramedy set in the charming villages along the Karnataka-Kerala border. The story spans over two eventful days, capturing incidents that bring significant changes in the lives of its characters.

The film features a unique blend of Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu, Konkani, and Beary languages, showcasing the rich cultural diversity of the border region. Reflecting this, the songs in the movie feature mixed linguistic elements, adding to their authenticity and appeal.

This rare hyperlink drama starts with a black cat crossing the paths of several families, sparking a chain of events influenced by local superstitions and leading to unexpected outcomes. Sithesh C Govind has crafted a story that combines humour with insightful social commentary, highlighting the cultural essence of the Karnataka-Kerala border and the unique characteristics of its people.

Idu Entha Lokavayya is set to release on August 9 across Karnataka.

Hagga explores beyond the supernatural: Avinash

Team Hagga

CE FEATURES

ANU Prabhakar takes on a unique role in *Hagga*, a horror film, which also stars Harshika Poonacha and Venu. Recently the teaser was released by filmmaker R Chandru at an event that was also attended by producer K Manju and director Dayal Padmanabhan.

Sharing his excitement, director Avinash, transitioning from mechanical engineering to filmmaking, said, "It has always been my passion to create films that not only entertain but also convey a deeper message. I want to explore themes that go beyond the supernatural, addressing real-world concerns and emotions."

Producer Raj Bhardwaj, who has written the story, said, "We are immensely grateful for the encouragement and support from everyone involved. The motion poster received an incredible response, and with the teaser, we aim to elevate the anticipation even further."

The film is expected to be released this August.